

**Iowa Smart Planning Task Force  
Report to the Governor and General Assembly  
SECOND DRAFT – November 9, 2010**

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## SUBMITTAL LETTER

November 15, 2010

The Honorable Chester J. Culver and  
The State of Iowa General Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
1007 East Grand Ave  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Culver and General Assembly,

In the 2010 legislative session, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed into law Senate File 2389 (SF 2389), which provided guidance for Smart Planning in Iowa and established the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force. This Task Force was charged with recommending policies and strategies for creating a stronger planning culture in Iowa, producing more resilient and sustainable communities. In particular, the Task Force was asked to consider how best to:

- Integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles into appropriate state policies and programs.
- Determine an effective and efficient coordination and information sharing system to support local and regional planning.
- Suggest appropriate technical and financial incentives to support local and regional planning.
- Develop a framework for regional planning.

The group faced a formidable task in addressing each of those directives by the November 15 deadline. Thanks to the willingness of Task Force members and other interested persons to devote the time necessary to research and review best practices from other states, solicit input from experts throughout the nation, and craft recommendations in the best interest of the state, we have met your directives within our allotted timeframe.

We are grateful to the individuals and organizations that participated in the public input process through in-person meetings, the webinar, and email and letter correspondence. The input provided significantly improved the recommendations found in this report. We wish to emphasize that we are still listening to the people of Iowa and will continue to do so throughout the existence of the Task Force. Our goal is put forward effective recommendations that benefit this great state and can be supported by the people of Iowa.

As identified in the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commissions' *120-Day Report* in November 2008, greater guidance and support for smart local and regional planning is necessary for Iowa to build resilient, economically vibrant communities with a high quality of life. SF 2389 was a good start for the state; implementation of the recommendations that follow this letter will ensure continued progress.

The recommendations contained in this report consider the shared responsibility between all levels of government to proactively plan for the future of this state and its communities. Recommendations range from establishing seed resources for local comprehensive smart planning to crafting an optimistic, yet pragmatic vision for the future of Iowa, which would be informed by public input statewide and set the foundation for state agency strategic plan development and coordination.

We also believe that the recommendations guide state and local decision-making in a way that makes the best use of limited public resources. For instance, the return on investment study regarding establishment of a statewide geographic information system shows a return of 24% to the state over 20 years. We also know that robust community planning and implementation saves resources in the long-run. A 2005 study shows that states that enact comprehensive planning reform that integrates hazard mitigation experience a 40% reduction in per capita insured losses from natural disasters. Effective state-level coordination will also assist in achieving multiple desired outcomes through individual state agency investments. We can choose to plan for the future or simply react to costly future events.

We would also like to point out that Smart Planning concepts have been encouraged in numerous reports and studies in recent years as a means of mitigating future disaster losses, fostering economic development and job creation, safeguarding and improving quality of life, improving public health outcomes, reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources, and protecting natural and agricultural resources. We believe the recommendations included in this report further each of these efforts in Iowa and finally provide a focus that has been recognized but lacking.

Please feel free to call upon us if you have questions about the report. We stand ready and willing to help in any future charge to the Task Force to support local and regional smart planning in Iowa.

Respectfully,

Nancy Richardson  
Director, Iowa Department of Transportation  
Co-Chair

Ruth Randleman  
Mayor, City of Carlisle  
Co-Chair

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Iowa Smart Planning Task Force gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations who contributed significantly to the successful completion of the Task Force's first report to the Governor and General Assembly:

Special thanks are due to the Task Force Co-Chairs, Nancy Richardson and Ruth Randleman, and the Committee Co-Chairs, Emily Hajek, Don Temeyer, Les Beck, and Rick Hunsaker, for their dedicated leadership and thoughtful guidance. The Task Force would also like to recognize the 65-plus individuals that participated in the committees and workgroups, spending many hours studying, formulating, and deliberating recommendations throughout this process.

Our great appreciation goes to the coordinators of the Task Force, Aaron Todd and Nichole Warren, who worked with Task Force leadership to prepare for meetings, arrange meeting locations, draft reports, communicate with Task Force members, and complete any other necessary tasks. The following persons were instrumental in coordinating the work of the four workgroups: Susan Judkins Josten, Annette Mansheim, Jenna Anderson, Liz Van Zomeren, Cindy Axne, and Heather Hackbarth. Special thanks are also due to Adam Bartelt for creating and updating the Iowa Smart Planning Web site, and Tina Potthoff and Juli Probasco-Sowers for creating and issuing press releases.

Additionally, the Task Force would like to thank the Councils of Governments that assisted in securing venues and providing staff support for the public input meetings, including the Northwest Iowa Planning and Development Commission, Southwest Iowa Planning Council, Southern Iowa Council of Governments, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Mid Iowa Development Association, Region XII Council of Governments, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments, Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission, and East Central Iowa Council of Governments, as well as the venues that generously provided space for the public input meetings: Spencer City Hall, Montgomery County History Center, Waverly Civic Center, Coralville Public Library, and Boone City Hall. Special thanks are also due to the Iowa State Association of Counties for graciously hosting a public input webinar on October 6, 2010. And thank you to the Iowa Department for the Blind for allowing us to use their facility for each of the Task Force meetings.

Finally, the Task Force would like to express sincere appreciation to all who provided subject matter expertise while recommendations were being crafted and to all members of the public who provided comments and suggestions to improve the recommendations.

## **SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission's *120-Day Report* issued in November 2008 recommended that the state provide greater guidance and support for local and regional planning to build resilient, economically vibrant communities with a high quality of life. Senate File 2389 (SF 2389), passed during the 2010 legislative session, responded directly to this recommendation, establishing Smart Planning Principles to guide planning and decision-making, and providing guidance for local comprehensive planning. SF 2389 also established the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force, which was charged with recommending policies and strategies for effective implementation of SF 2389 and for fostering a stronger planning culture in Iowa. In particular, the Task Force was asked to consider how best to:

- Integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles into appropriate state policies and programs.
- Determine an effective and efficient coordination and information sharing system to support local and regional planning.
- Suggest appropriate technical and financial incentives to support local and regional planning.
- Develop a framework for regional planning.

The Task Force, along with its two committees and four workgroups, met throughout the summer and fall of 2010 to identify and review best practices, consult local and national experts, and craft recommendations in the best interest of Iowans. A public input process was also implemented, resulting in improved recommendations. Detailed information regarding the legislative directive and Task Force activities can be found in Section 2.

The recommendations set forth in Section 3 of this report seek to establish a coordinated planning framework to support and incentivize local and regional smart planning. A system is laid out to support local governments in their consideration of Iowa's Smart Planning Principles and application of them when planning for the future. Support to municipalities includes tools, technical assistance, guidance from the regional plan, and financial incentives. If desired, municipalities may submit their comprehensive plan to their Plan Review Committee for designation as a "qualified" plan, which will be recognized by state agencies making resource funding decisions. In addition, local planning may be guided and enhanced by integration of watershed plans as they become available and by GIS data that will be coordinated and made available by a state office.

The proposed planning framework mandates that regional plans will be developed and made available as a guiding document for all local planning. Regional plans will incorporate goals and strategies of the area's watershed plan once they are complete. Councils of Governments are tasked with developing a regional plan and coordinating a Plan Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing local plans and qualifying them as a smart plan. Once qualified, all state agencies will recognize the distinction for additional consideration when making investment decisions.

The proposed system identifies the role of the state to provide service to local and regional entities by coordinating GIS data, coordinating the development of a planning educational program and toolkit, and providing technical assistance and incentives for completing qualified smart plans. Another important aspect is the development of a shared state vision by which all state agencies would align their programs and services. This greater coordination of state agencies will provide efficiencies to be realized even at the local level.

Implementing the proposed framework is based upon 16 recommendations summarized below:

## 1. State-Level Coordination

- 1.1: Establish the Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems (OPGIS) and OPGIS Coordinating Council.
- 1.2: Develop an accessible statewide GIS and data system.
- 1.3: Integrate the Smart Planning Principles into the State's Enterprise Strategic Planning Process.
- 1.4: Provide training and technical assistance to state agencies to facilitate integration of Smart Planning Principles into state investment decision-making processes.
- 1.5: Identify *State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals and Benchmarks* as measurable goals and benchmarks for the state.

## 2. Regional Planning Framework

- 2.1: Identify Councils of Governments as the organizations responsible for comprehensive regional smart planning throughout Iowa.
- 2.2: Comprehensive regional smart plans should be completed within five years after legislation is enacted.
- 2.3: Create a sustainable funding source for regional smart planning.
- 2.4: Councils of Governments should establish a Plan Review Committee in each region for local smart plan review.
- 2.5: A regional entity or entities should be established or identified in Central Iowa for the purposes of regional planning, implementation, and local smart plan review.

## 3. Financial Incentives & Technical Assistance

- 3.1: Create a sustainable funding source for a smart planning grant program at the state-level for local smart plan development and implementation.
- 3.2: Expand the menu of financing options available for local governments to develop and implement smart plans.
- 3.3: State agencies should give additional consideration for having a qualified smart plan to receive state funding for infrastructure and public facilities projects that affect land use, transportation, stormwater management, and floodplain protection.
- 3.4: Create a smart planning education program and toolbox for local government staff, officials, and the public.

## 4. Watershed Planning & Implementation

- 4.1: Enhance watershed planning, coordination, and implementation by creating goals and strategies referencing land use for each of Iowa's six major river basins and three major river regions.

## 5. State Code Consistency

- 5.1: Make the definition of "local comprehensive plan" uniform through the Iowa Code.

The Task Force believes that each of these recommendations merit action by the Governor and General Assembly. Recognizing the chronological order associated with some of the recommendations, as well as state budget realities, a timeline is proposed. It is believed that the recommendations presented in this report are achievable over five years and that these actions are truly necessary to build sustainable, resilient communities throughout Iowa. A proposed timeline is suggested in Section 4.

The next steps for the Task Force are identified in Section 5. Finally, the appendices begin in Section 6, including an annotated bibliography of the references included in this document.

## **SECTION 2: LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND & TASK FORCE PROCESSES**

### *Legislative Overview*

In its November 2008 report, the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) called on the state to "lead in developing guidance and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives (RIAC Recommendation #8)." As outlined in the report, such guidance and support includes providing seed resources and technical assistance for comprehensive planning, fostering multi-jurisdictional planning, seeking additional resources for councils of governments to undertake regional planning, establishing a state resource devoted to integrating planning and

programming functions, developing and adopting a core-level land use policy that incorporates natural hazards risk reduction, undertaking watershed planning, and incorporating smart development principles into planning activities and infrastructure projects.

Responding to this directive, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law on April 26, 2010, Senate File 2389 (SF 2389), which includes Division VII: Iowa Smart Planning. The Iowa Smart Planning legislation includes three primary components:

- 1) Articulates ten Iowa Smart Planning Principles for application in local comprehensive plan development and public investment decision-making;
- 2) Provides comprehensive planning guidance for cities and counties; and
- 3) Establishes the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force with various responsibilities.

The Iowa Smart Planning bill does not mandate how communities should grow, rather it requires that communities and state agencies consider Smart Planning Principles when planning for the future and provides guidance concerning important elements local comprehensive plans should include. Smart Planning is meant to improve community resiliency in ways that increase economic opportunity, protect environmental resources, and improve quality of life.

SF 2389 also established the Disaster Prevention program that provided \$30 million through I-JOBS for infrastructure projects related to disaster prevention in communities and counties that apply Smart Planning Principles and follow the local comprehensive planning guidance found in SF 2389.

The sections of SF 2389 pertaining to Smart Planning can be found in the appendix on page X.

#### *Smart Planning Task Force Duties*

The primary purpose of the Iowa Smart Task Force is to develop recommendations for effective implementation of the Iowa Smart Planning legislation. This document represents the first report to the Governor and General Assembly from the Task Force, which is due by November 15, 2010.

As stated in SF 2389, the duties of the Task Force include:

- Evaluate state policies, programs, statutes, and rules to determine whether they should be revised to integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles.
- Develop statewide goals for comprehensive planning that utilize the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and develop recommendations for a process to measure progress toward achieving those goals.
- Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.
- Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.
- Review city and county comprehensive plans to determine the number of such plans that address the hazards as listed in the Hazards Element of the suggested local comprehensive plan guidelines and the adequacy of such plans in addressing those hazards.
- Develop a set of recommendations that is consistent with the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and that do all of the following:

- Coordinates, facilitates, and centralizes the exchange of information related to state and local planning, zoning, and development between state agencies and the General Assembly.
- Coordinates discussions concerning a proposed geographic information system between the producers and the users of such systems.
- Allows the efficient production and dissemination of population and other demographic statistical forecasts.
- Creates a centralized storage location for all comprehensive plans.
- Facilitates the cooperation of state and local governments with comprehensive planning, educational, and research programs.
- Provides and administers technical and financial assistance for state and local comprehensive planning.
- Provides information to local governments related to state, federal, and other resources for comprehensive planning.

The Task Force is directed to consult land use experts, representatives of cities and counties, agricultural and environmental interests, urban and regional planning experts, reports or information from the Local Government Innovation Commission, and all other information deemed relevant by Task Force members. The Task Force shall also solicit information from the general public on matters related to comprehensive planning. Additionally, the Director of the Iowa Department of Management (DOM) or his/her designee is directed to seek funding to support local comprehensive planning.

The work of the Task Force has been coordinated by the Rebuild Iowa Office, the Iowa Association of Regional Councils, and the DOM. The Task Force is dissolved on December 31, 2012.

*Task Force Membership, Structure & Meeting Dates*

The Iowa Smart Planning Task Force consists of 33 members - 29 voting members and four non-voting legislative representatives. Six members are appointed by the Governor; of those six, at least one must have experience in land development, at least one must have experience in real estate, and at least one must have experience in residential construction. Additionally, the six gubernatorial appointees must also represent various city and county population thresholds, as identified in the chart below.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Representative</b>
1. Dept on Aging	Machelle Shaffer
2. Dept of Agriculture & Land Stewardship	Wayne Petersen
3. Dept of Commerce	Rob Berntsen
4. Dept of Cultural Affairs	Paula Mohr
5. Dept of Economic Development	Bret Mills
6. Office of Energy Independence	Bruce Greiner
7. Dept of Management	Heather Hackbarth
8. Department of Natural Resources	Bill Ehm
9. Dept of Defense	David Johnston
10. Dept of Public Health	Ken Sharp
11. Dept of Public Safety	Stuart Crine



12.	Rebuild Iowa Office	Emily Shields
13.	Dept of Transportation	Nancy Richardson
14.	Iowa Workforce Development	Joe Mowers
15.	Iowa State University	Gary Taylor
16.	University of Iowa	Charles Connerly
17.	University of Northern Iowa	LaDene Bowen
18.	American Planning Association	David Wilwerding
19.	American Institute of Architects	Carey Nagle
20.	Iowa Association of Regional Councils	Rick Hunsaker
21.	Iowa League of Cities	Jessica Hyland Harder
22.	Iowa State Association of Counties	Les Beck
23.	School Administrators of Iowa	Dan Smith
24.	City: Pop. of 5,000 or less	Ruth Randleman, Carlisle
25.	City: Pop. greater than 5,000 & less than 25,000	Chad Kuene, North Liberty
26.	City: Pop. of 25,000 or more	Teri Goodmann, Dubuque
27.	County: Pop. of 10,000 or less	Jeff Kolb, Butler County
28.	County: Pop. greater than 10,000 & less than 50,000	Pam Myhre, Cerro Gordo County
29.	County: Pop. of 50,000 or more	Donald Temeyer, Black Hawk County
30.	State Senator, Democrat	Sen. Pam Jochum
31.	State Senator, Republican	Sen. Shawn Hamerlink
32.	State Representative, Democrat	Rep. Tom Schueller
33.	State Representative, Republican	Rep. Nick Wagner

During the first meeting of the Task Force in June, co-chairs were selected by members: Nancy Richardson, Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation; and Ruth Randleman, Mayor of the City of Carlisle.

During the same meeting, the Task Force determined that it was necessary to divide its membership into two committees to facilitate in-depth discussion. Those committees were each divided into two work groups to focus attention even further. Each committee co-chair led a workgroup. Any interested persons were invited to participate in the workgroups. The workgroups, consisting of more than 65 Iowans from across the state, met from July through early September, consulting various experts and resources regarding Smart Planning. The workgroups funneled recommendations to the committees for review; the committees then submitted recommendations to the full Task Force, which provided the basis for the draft recommendations approved on September 15.

The basic structure and scope of the committees and workgroups are outlined below. Leadership is identified in parenthesis.

- Intergovernmental Coordination and Information Sharing Committee
  - The Integration of Smart Planning Principles Workgroup is charged with evaluating state policies, programs, statutes, and rules to determine whether they should be revised to incorporate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles (Emily Shields, Rebuild Iowa Office).

- The Information Sharing and Coordination Workgroup is charged with identifying strategies to ensure that data and analysis tools are readily available for plan development and for recommending a coordination mechanism to support local and regional planning efforts (Don Temeyer, HR Green Company).
- Comprehensive Planning Committee
  - The Local Comprehensive Planning Workgroup is charged with developing statewide goals for comprehensive planning, conducting a review of existing plans for inclusion of hazard mitigation elements, and recommending financial incentives and technical assistance to support local planning (Les Beck, Linn County Planning and Development Department).
  - The Regional Comprehensive Planning Workgroup is charged with developing a framework for regional planning throughout Iowa and recommending financial incentives and technical assistance to support regional planning (Rick Hunsaker, Region XII Council of Governments).

More information regarding the scope, membership, and experts and resources consulted in each committee can be found in the appendix on page X.

The Task Force met on the following dates:

- June 23, 2010
- August 11, 2010
- September 15, 2010
- October 20, 2010
- November 10, 2010

All Task Force meetings were held at the Department for the Blind in Des Moines, with an option to participate via conference phone. The media was notified of all meetings and all interested persons were encouraged to attend. Meeting notes can be found on the Iowa Smart Planning Web site and are also available upon request.

#### *Public Input Process*

The Iowa Smart Planning Task Force membership placed a high priority on soliciting and meaningfully considering public input concerning the development and refinement of the recommendations included in this report. Given the time constraints of addressing each of the directives outlined in SF 2389 by November 15, 2010, the Task Force believes the public input process employed provided adequate notice and allowed for multiple opportunities for interested persons and organizations to provide input into the process. That said, the Task Force wants to make it clear that Iowans can continue to be engaged in this process, and further input is welcome as the Task Force continues its work over the next two years.

The Task Force provided multiple means for public input throughout the process of developing and finalizing the recommendations included in this report. While crafting draft recommendations, workgroup membership was open to all interested persons and organizations. Once draft recommendations were approved at the September 15, 2010, Task Force meeting, the following opportunities were offered for public comment:

- **Public Input Meetings:** Meetings were held in five communities across the state. These meetings began with a brief presentation by a Task Force member, outlining the draft recommendations and providing some context. Following the presentation, attendees were encouraged to ask questions and provide suggestions for improving the recommendations.
- **Webinar:** The Iowa State Association of Counties hosted a webinar on behalf of the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force that provided an overview of the draft recommendations, and then provided an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and provide suggestions for improving the recommendations. The webinar was held on October 6, 2010, from 1:30 to 2:30pm.
- **Survey:** A survey was developed that allowed respondents to articulate support, neutrality, or opposition to each of the draft recommendations approved on September 15. Additionally, two qualitative questions were included that asked respondents to suggest items that should be changed, added, or deleted, and to offer any other comments or suggestions. Surveys were posted on the Iowa Smart Planning Web site beginning September 16, 2010, and hardcopies were provided at each of the public input meetings. Respondents could submit the applications anonymously, if desired. Respondents that provided a legible email address were sent an email with a link to the compiled public input comments so that they may review the comments and stay up-to-date on the activities of the Task Force.
- Finally, interested persons and organizations were encouraged to submit comments and suggestions via email and letter.

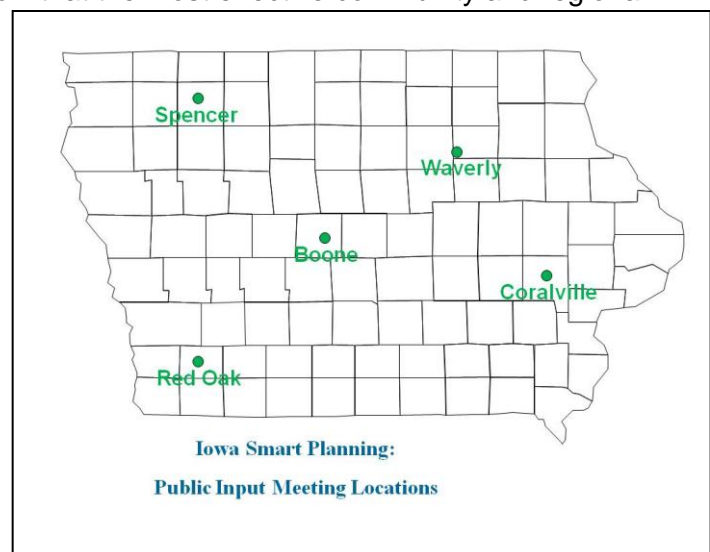
As of November 15, 2010, 206 persons participated in the public input meetings and webinar, 59 surveys were submitted, 20 emails were submitted, and nine letters were submitted. In general, public comments showed that the concepts presented in the draft recommendations were supported but greater clarification and revisions were needed on a few topics, particularly related to regional comprehensive smart planning.

A brief analysis of the public comments, followed by the survey reports and raw comments and letters, are provided in the appendix on page X.

### SECTION 3: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Research and experiences in other states show that the most effective community and regional planning structures are both vertically integrated (between levels of government, local-regional-state) and horizontally integrated (between state agencies or between neighboring jurisdictions). The following diagrams illustrate the planning structure that existed in Iowa prior to passage of Senate File 2389 (SF 2389), after SF 2389 was passed, and, finally, the structure the recommendations in this report seek to establish.

Prior to the passage of SF 2389, comprehensive planning in Iowa was mostly conducted at the local level, with topical



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    subgraph Administrative_Structure [Administrative Structure]
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        LGV[LOCAL GOV'T]
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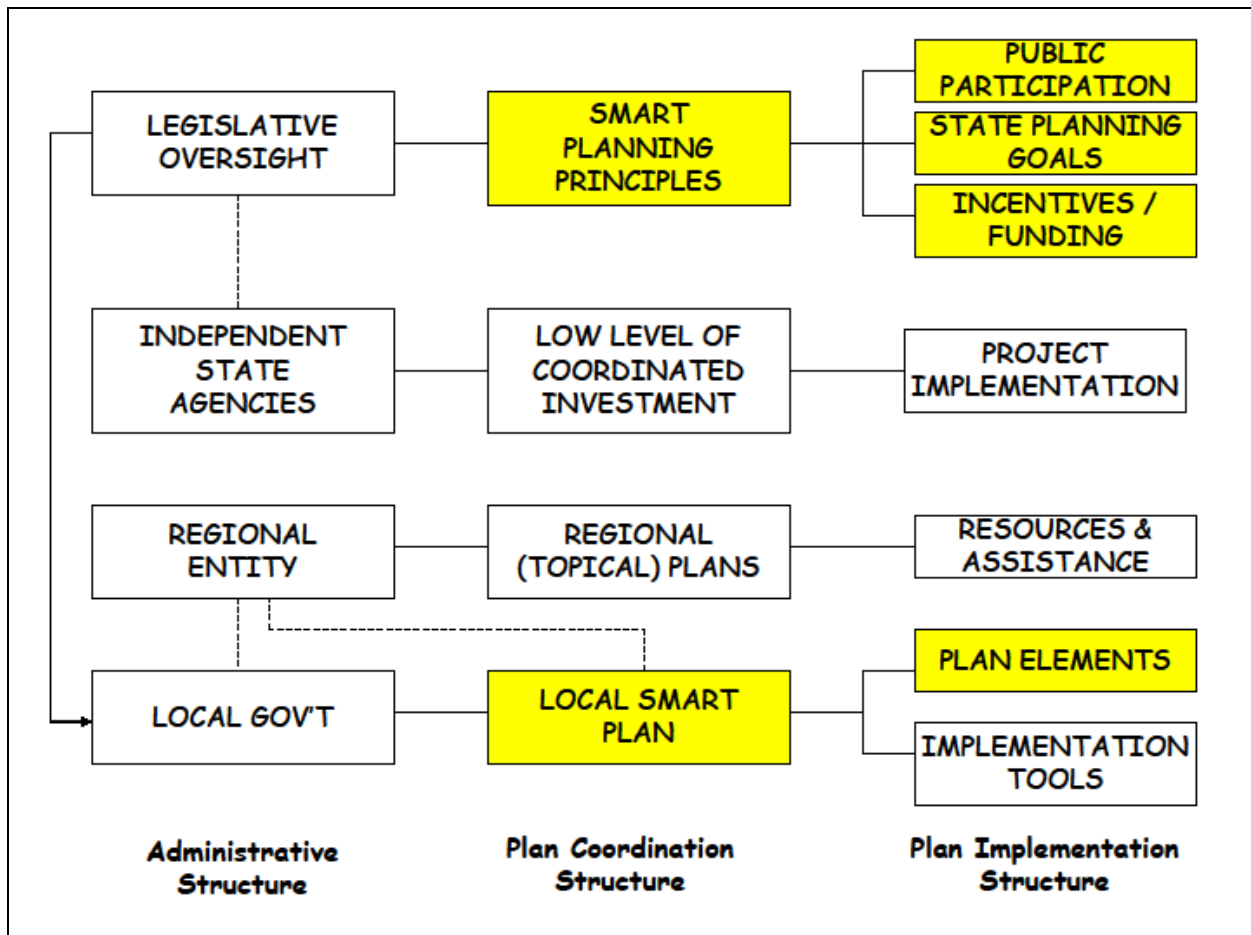
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    LO -.-> LGV
    ISA --- LLCI
    RE --- RTP
    LGV --- LCP
    LLCI --- PI
    RTP --- RA
    LCP --- PE
    LCP --- IT
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The diagram illustrates the relationship between three organizational structures: Administrative Structure, Plan Coordination Structure, and Plan Implementation Structure.

- Administrative Structure:** Includes LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT, INDEPENDENT STATE AGENCIES, REGIONAL ENTITY, and LOCAL GOV'T.
- Plan Coordination Structure:** Includes LOW LEVEL OF COORDINATED INVESTMENT, REGIONAL (TOPICAL) PLANS, and LOCAL COMP. PLAN.
- Plan Implementation Structure:** Includes PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, RESOURCES & ASSISTANCE, PLAN ELEMENTS, and IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS.

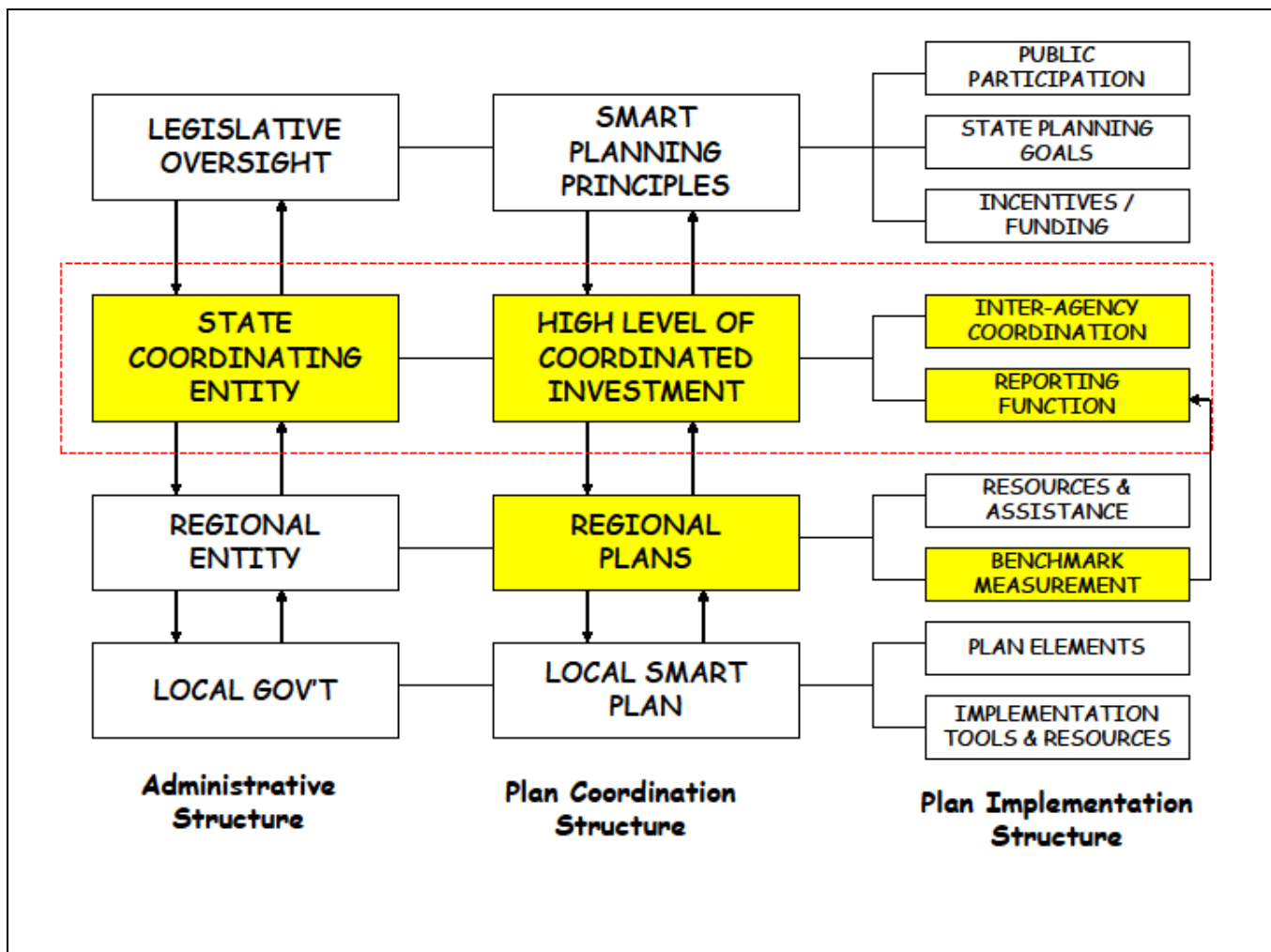
**Flow and Relationships:**

- LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT is connected to INDEPENDENT STATE AGENCIES and LOCAL GOV'T (via dashed lines).
- INDEPENDENT STATE AGENCIES is connected to LOW LEVEL OF COORDINATED INVESTMENT.
- REGIONAL ENTITY is connected to REGIONAL (TOPICAL) PLANS.
- LOCAL GOV'T is connected to LOCAL COMP. PLAN.
- LOW LEVEL OF COORDINATED INVESTMENT is connected to PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.
- REGIONAL (TOPICAL) PLANS is connected to RESOURCES & ASSISTANCE.
- LOCAL COMP. PLAN is connected to PLAN ELEMENTS and IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS.



**Figure 1.2 Planning Framework After Passage of SF 2389**

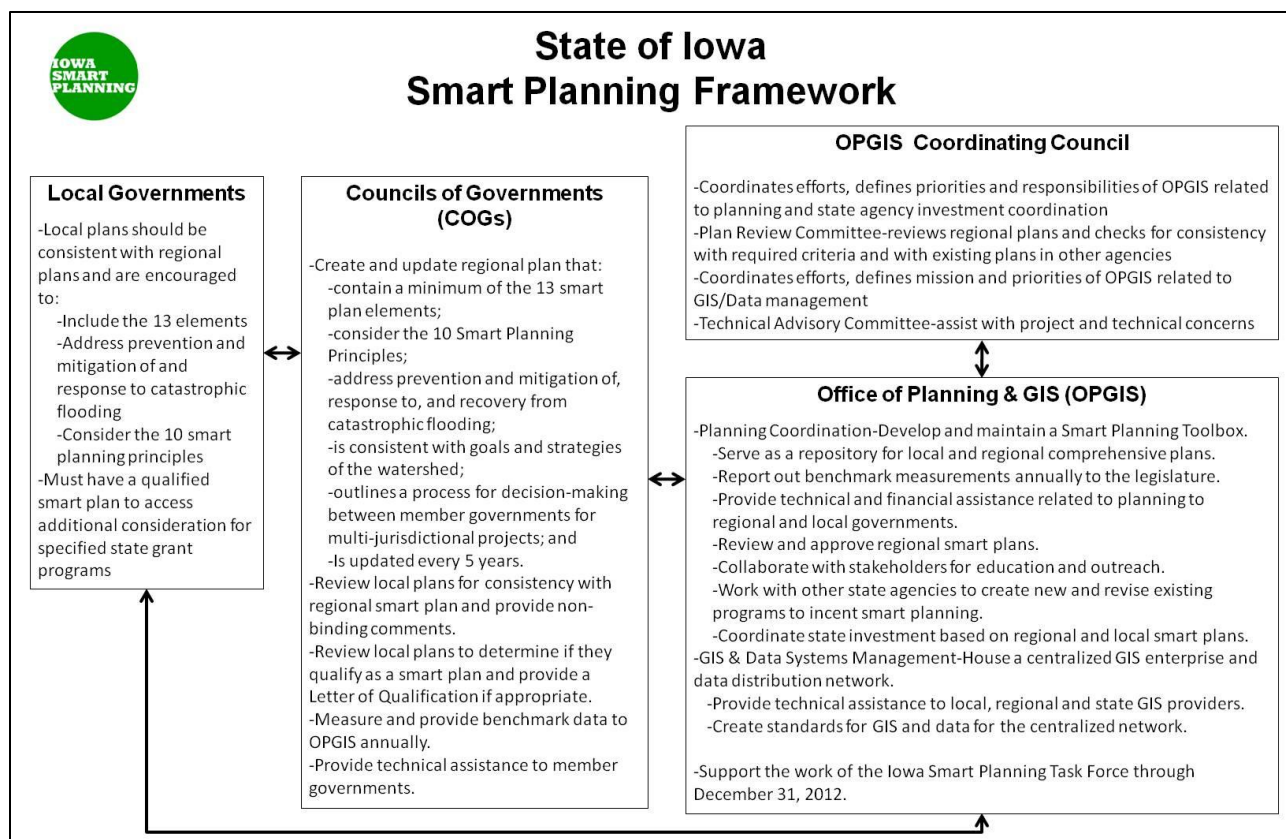
Figure 1.3 below outlines the planning framework that this report's recommendations seek to establish. This improved framework strengthens vertical coordination at all levels of government (local-regional-state) and horizontal coordination at the state-level, while also encouraging multi-jurisdictional coordination at the local level. Goals and benchmarks are included so that progress can be measured and greater investment coordination is emphasized at the state level. The concepts illustrated in Figure 1.3 can be made most effective with the identification of a state coordinating entity. The Task Force believes that this framework will serve Iowa well, ensuring that issues that impact multiple political jurisdictions, such as flooding, have a forum in which they can be effectively addressed, and that the state is coordinating investment decisions to maximize the impact of limited state resources and efficiently and effectively promoting implementation of smart projects.



**Figure 1.3 Proposed Smart Planning Framework**

The following policy recommendations were approved at the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force's November 10, 2010, meeting. The Task Force believes that these recommendations will provide the structure at the state, regional, and local level, as well as the resources necessary, to effectively implement Smart Planning in Iowa, producing more resilient and sustainable communities, enhancing economic development, improving the state's quality of life, and ensuring that tax dollars are wisely spent.

Figure 1.4 below illustrates how the recommendations fit together and interact among local, regional, and state entities. One of the key attributes of this framework is the feedback loop among all levels. The improved framework will coordinate efforts and assistance at all levels to create a unified effort for planning, public investment, and hazard mitigation.



**Figure 1.4 Detailed Smart Planning Framework**

The recommendations are divided into five categories: 1) state-level coordination, 2) regional planning framework, 3) financial incentives & technical assistance, 4) watershed planning & implementation, and 5) state code consistency. Each of the recommendations is described in-depth below, including an overview of the recommendation, a description of why it is needed and beneficial, necessary legislative or administrative action steps, and references. The references are numbered based on the annotated bibliography in the appendix.

### 1. State-Level Coordination

*Recommendation 1 satisfies the following tasks charged to the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force in SF 2389:*

- *Develop a set of recommendations that is consistent with the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and does all of the following:*
  - *Coordinates, facilitates, and centralizes the exchange of information related to state and local planning, zoning, and development between state agencies and the General Assembly.*
  - *Coordinates discussions concerning a proposed geographic information system between the producers and users of such systems.*
  - *Allows the efficient production and dissemination of population and other demographic statistical forecasts.*
  - *Creates a centralized storage location for all comprehensive plans.*
  - *Facilitates the cooperation of state and local governments with comprehensive planning, educational, and research programs.*



- *Provides and administers technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning.*
- *Provides information to local governments related to state, federal, and other resources for comprehensive planning.*
- *Develop statewide goals for comprehensive planning that utilize the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and develop recommendations to process to measure progress toward achieving state goals.*
- *Evaluate state policies, programs, statutes, and rules to determine whether they should be revised to integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles*

The following recommendations outline a framework to coordinate smart comprehensive planning, geographic information and data systems, and state-level investment in programs and projects that affect community building, land use, and quality of life.

Recommendation 1.1: Establish the Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems (OPGIS) and OPGIS Coordinating Council.

The Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems (OPGIS) and OPGIS Coordinating Council should be established to better coordinate state investments and integration of Smart Planning Principles throughout appropriate state programs and policies, administer financial and technical assistance for local planning, implement a statewide geographic information system (GIS) clearinghouse, and provide technical assistance and training for GIS data management.

Planning efforts of this entity will also compliment and strengthen the proposed watershed planning and coordination activities (Recommendation 4).

*Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems*

Effective and efficient coordination of smart planning efforts across the state requires an entity at the state-level that can foster successful partnerships between state, regional, and local governments and resource organizations. The OPGIS Coordinating Council, described below, will define OPGIS's mission and establish priorities.

The recommended scope of work for OPGIS includes:

- **Planning Coordination**
  - Collaborate with stakeholders to develop and coordinate of Smart Planning educational programming for planning professionals, elected officials, and the public (Recommendation 3.4).
  - Serve as an electronic repository for local and regional comprehensive plans.
  - Report out benchmark measurements annually to the Legislature (Recommendation 1.5).
  - Administer and deliver smart planning technical and financial assistance to regional organizations and local governments (Recommendation 3).
  - Work with other state agencies to create new and revise existing programs to incentivize smart planning (Recommendation 1.4).
  - Provide staff support to a Plan Review Committee that reviews and approves regional smart plans.
  - Support the Planning Coordination Council in efforts to coordinate state investment based on regional and local smart plans.



- Support the activities of the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force, in collaboration with the Iowa Association of Regional Councils
- GIS & Data Management
  - Develop and maintain a centralized GIS enterprise and data distribution network (Recommendation 1.2).
  - Provide technical assistance to local, regional, and state GIS providers and users.
  - Create standards for GIS and data for the centralized network.

#### *OPGIS Coordinating Council*

The OPGIS Coordinating Council coordinates efforts and establishes priorities and responsibilities of the OPGIS. The Council will act as a forum for coordination of state investment based on regional and local smart plans and the realization of co-benefits of state investment, and coordinate the effort to establish the statewide GIS system.

The Council is made up of appointees from state, regional, and local governments, universities, and/or the private sector. Suggested membership includes:

- Iowa League of Cities (3)
- Iowa State Association of Counties (2)
- Iowa Association of Regional Councils (1)
- Regents Universities (3)
- State Department Directors or Their Representatives (7)
  - Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
  - Department of Cultural Affairs
  - Department of Economic Development
  - Department of Management
  - Department of Natural Resources
  - Department of Transportation
  - Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division
- Appointed by Governor (5)

The three Iowa League of Cities (League) appointees should represent a small, medium, and large community respectively. One appointee for the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) should represent a rural county and the other an urban county. The appointments by the League, ISAC, Iowa Association of Regional Councils, and Governor should be coordinated so that all geographic regions of the state are equitably represented.

A Planning Technical Advisory Committee and a GIS Technical Advisory Committee may be established through the Coordinating Council to assist with implementation of specific tasks and projects of the OPGIS, including the review of regional smart plans. The Iowa Geographic Council, a voluntary group, may serve this purpose for the GIS Technical Advisory Committee.

#### *Location of the OPGIS and OPGIS Coordinating Council*

The Task Force believes it is important to note that OPGIS and OPGIS Coordinating Council necessitate autonomy, authority, and responsibility to lead and coordinate smart planning and investment processes at the state level. With that in mind, the Task Force suggests the following structure options:

1. The OPGIS and associated Coordinating Council could be established as an independent office, similar to the way in which the Iowa Office of Energy Independence or the Rebuild Iowa Office is structured. Such an office would outsource human resources, accounting, and information technology services to keep personnel costs to a minimum.

Or

2. The OPGIS and associated Coordinating Council could be placed within an existing agency; however, the planning and GIS functions must retain autonomy under this scenario. Existing agencies that could be considered include the Departments of Economic Development, Administrative Services, or Management.

Alternatively, the planning and GIS functions could be separated completely and either exist as independent offices or be placed within an existing agency.

### **Justification**

- Effective coordination of state-level assistance, resources, and strategies will require a state-level coordinating entity.
- Creation of the Coordinating Council will ensure that the mission and priorities of the OPGIS reflect interagency, intergovernmental, and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Development of a centralized comprehensive plan database, GIS and data systems network, and resource and educational programming will greatly aid regional and local governments in the creation of smart plans.
- Dedicating staff and experts to provide technical assistance to local governments will ensure that all entities wishing to create a smart plan have the capacity to do so.
- A return on investment study showed that the establishment of a GIS/data management system in Iowa could produce a 24% return on investment and return \$5 for every \$1 spent over 20 years; such a system becomes even more valuable during disasters, such as the floods of 2008.

### **Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)**

- Establish the OPGIS and OPGIS Coordination Council in the Iowa Code.
- Allocated the necessary resources to the OPGIS for effective implementation.
- Create administrative rules for the OPGIS and OPGIS Coordinating Council.

### **References**

1. Connecticut Office of Policy and Management: Office of Responsible Growth.
2. Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut (2005). Office of Policy and Management.
3. Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination.
4. Delaware's Cabinet Committee on State Planning Issues.
5. Delaware Geographic Data Committee.
6. Florida Department of Community Affairs: Division of Community Planning.
7. Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
8. Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure: A Strategic ROI Business Plan for the Iowa Geographic Information Council (June 30, 3008).

9. Minnesota Department of Administration: Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis
10. New Jersey Department of Community Affairs: Office of Smart Growth.
11. New York Environmental Conservation Law, Article 6- State Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act.

**Recommendation 1.2: Develop an accessible statewide GIS and data system.**

To facilitate creation of smart plans at the regional and local level, an accessible GIS and data management system should be readily available. Such a system would serve as a clearinghouse for GIS data across the State. Depending on the source and circumstances, some data would be housed by the clearinghouse while other data would be accessed through a central directory of providers. The OPGIS should work with existing providers to standardize the collection and storage of geospatial information. All levels of government would be encouraged to share their data. Sensitive data would be removed prior to being submitted to the clearinghouse. This data will be useful to planners, as well as all who consume Iowa geospatial data, and across all levels of government.

**Justification**

- For local governments to create effective and complete comprehensive plans, mapping functions and data needs to be readily available. Local governments across the state would benefit from a centralized system compiled from accurate and standardized sources.
- Such a system would reduce duplication of efforts, time delays, and costs in the long-run for all levels of government.
- A return on investment study showed that the establishment of a GIS/data management system could produce a 24% return on investment and return \$5 for every \$1 spent over 20 years; these systems become even more valuable during disasters, such as the floods of 2008.

**Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)**

- Adequate resources need to be provided by the Legislature to the OPGIS to develop and maintain the GIS system, and provide necessary technical assistance to providers and users of data.

**References**

8. Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure: A Strategic ROI Business Plan for the Iowa Geographic Information Council (June 30, 3008).
9. Minnesota Department of Administration: Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis.
12. GeoStor: Arkansas' Official GIS Platform. Arkansas Geographic Information Office.
13. Maryland State Geographic Information Committee.
14. Massachusetts Office of Geographic Information.
15. Minnesota GeoSpatial Information Office.
16. New York State Geographic Information Systems Clearinghouse. New York State Office of Cyber Security.
17. NH GRANIT: New Hampshire's GIS Clearinghouse. University of New Hampshire
18. Utah GIS Portal. State of Utah.
19. Washington State Geographic Information Council.

### Recommendation 1.3: Integrate the Smart Planning Principles into the State's Enterprise Strategic Planning process.

The Iowa Department of Management (IDOM) oversees the state of Iowa's Enterprise Strategic Planning Process through which individual agencies develop three- to five-year plans that outline essential goals, strategies, and measures. This helps ensure that each agency remains focused on and makes progress towards achieving its vision and mission. This process currently lacks the direction of an overall statewide vision and goals.

State agencies are required to consider the Smart Planning Principles in planning and resource management decisions. The Task Force recommends that the Enterprise Strategic Planning Process be modified to incorporate Iowa Smart Planning Principles in the following ways, utilizing technical assistance from OPGIS staff:

- a) Create and regularly update a statewide vision and strategic plan that incorporates the Iowa Smart Planning Principles to which agency strategic plans should align.
- b) Update the *Guide for Agency Strategic Planning* to explain how state agencies should incorporate Smart Planning Principles as stated in SF 2389.
- c) Create and update metrics toward the Principles in both the statewide and individual agency plans.
- d) IDOM should be a clearinghouse of agency strategic plans and provide accountability and transparency on metrics.

#### **Justification**

- Establishing an overall vision for the state with specific goals will provide direction for agencies to align strategies and objectives and provide clarity at the local level when all agencies are working towards achieving a shared vision.
- A survey was distributed to nine state agencies two regents' universities to determine familiarity with and incorporation of the Iowa Smart Planning Principles. Discussion following review of the preliminary results of the survey and the Enterprise Strategic Planning Process identified a lack of an overall statewide vision and goals.

#### **Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)**

- Integration of Smart Planning Principles into the Enterprise Planning Process administrative rules.
- Allocate funding for IDOM for additional staff resources to implement a process to facilitate the creation of a statewide vision and goals that incorporate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles.

#### **References**

20. Guide for Enterprise Strategic Planning (May 2007), State of Iowa.

### Recommendation 1.4: Provide training and technical assistance to state agencies to facilitate integration of Smart Planning Principles into state investment decision-making processes.

The Task Force recommends that Iowa Smart Planning Principles be integrated into state investment decisions, particularly grant programs administered by state agencies. The first step to integrating the Principles into state investment decisions is by having state agency strategic plans align with a shared vision that incorporates the Principles as described in

Recommendation 1.3 above. Grant decisions made by agencies should subsequently support and align with Smart Planning Principles and state goals. This strategy encourages and provides an incentive for local municipalities to develop comprehensive plans that incorporate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles.

OPGIS should help ensure success of integrating the Principles into grant award processes by providing training to state grant administrators. This activity would include establishing measures for success.

#### **Justification**

- Implementation of this recommendation will provide state grant administrators the necessary tools to effectively incorporate the Smart Planning Principles into the grant process.
- Effective incorporation of the Smart Planning Principles within state grant programs will provide clear direction and incentive to local governments to incorporate Iowa Smart Planning Principles into local comprehensive planning and decision-making processes.
- Incorporating Smart Planning Principles into state grant programs will better align state agency investments with the statewide vision and goals, which also incorporate the Principles.

#### **Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)**

- Allocate funding for OPGIS to provide training to state grant fund administrators on how to effectively incorporate Smart Planning Principles into funding decisions.

#### **References**

20. Guide for Enterprise Strategic Planning (May 2007), State of Iowa.

#### **Recommendation 1.5: Identify “State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals and Benchmarks” as measurable goals and benchmarks for the state.**

The Task Force recommends that the OPGIS and OPGIS Coordinating Council adopt the “State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals and Benchmarks” as part of their goals and guiding principles. The Smart Planning Goals and Benchmarks stem from the vision that smart planning should result in greater economic opportunity, enhanced environmental integrity, improved public health, and high quality of life for all Iowans. The following goals and benchmarks should be considered a sample starting point.

##### *State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals and Benchmarks*

##### **Goal 1: Collaboration**

To foster a collaborative planning process through partnerships between state agencies and organizations, regional entities, counties, cities, the rural community, and the public.

Strategy 1.1 - Encourage public involvement in the planning process.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
1.1.1	Increase in the number of public input sessions and in the number of participants in these input sessions.
1.1.2	Increase in the public access to plans through online availability and outreach materials.

Strategy 1.2 - Increase access to partner resources for more efficient and effective planning.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
1.2.1	Creation and maintenance of a Smart Planning Toolbox to include best practices, resources and models; with an interactive comment process for user recommendations on improvements and additions.
1.2.2	Collection and reporting of baseline data regarding planning and development at the local, regional and state level.
1.2.3	Identification and prioritization of areas of the state that have greater needs and issues requiring assistance.
1.2.4	Collection of all comprehensive plans to establish an electronic database.
1.2.5	Increase in availability of best available data on flood mapping, runoff and precipitation.

Strategy 1.3 - Provide education on smart planning.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
1.3.1	Creation of an education program on smart planning through collaboration among the Iowa League of Cities, the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC), Iowa Association of Regional Council (IARC), regent universities and other interested stakeholders.
1.3.2	Increase in the number of participants (public, elected and appointed officials, staff, youth and schools) completing a smart planning education program.

## Goal 2: Efficiency, Transparency, and Consistency

To provide for increased efficiency, transparency, and consistency in planning and investment processes, and to ensure equitable availability of resources.

Strategy 2.1 - Promote coordination among state agencies for investment in smart planning.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
2.1.1	Increase in percentage of investment in localities with smart plans compared to overall investment in similar projects/programs.
2.1.2	Increase in incentives for implementation of smart plans and watershed planning.

Strategy 2.2 - Encourage consistency in development standards.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
2.2.1	Increase in the number of Iowa cities and counties that have an adopted and are enforcing a nationally recognized building code, including the state energy code.
2.2.2	Increase in the percentage of new construction in compliance with a nationally recognized building code, including the state energy code.

Strategy 2.3 - Report successes and desired improvements.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
2.3.1	Completion of an annual “State of Smart Planning” report on key metrics and success stories around the state.
2.3.2	Increase in the effective use of technology for collaboration, education, and participation in the planning process.

### Goal 3: Livable Communities and Quality of Life

To promote livable communities and maintain a high quality of life through housing and transportation diversity.

Strategy 3.1 - Promote housing diversity.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
3.1.1	Increase in housing diversity through adaptive reuse of existing structures (e.g. granny flats, accessory apartments, lofts, etc.).
3.1.2	Increase in the number of affordable housing units.
3.1.3	Decrease in the number and percentage of residents who spend more than 30 percent of their household income on housing, including utilities.

Strategy 3.2 - Encourage multimodal transportation.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
3.2.1	Decrease in the growth rate of vehicle miles (or vehicle hours) traveled.
3.2.2	Increase in the number of trips made by carpool, public transportation, bicycles, walking or working at home.
3.2.3	Increase in the number of trail, pedestrian and/or bike plans.
3.2.4	Increase in the number of bikeways, bicycle facilities, walkways, and paths built.

### Goal 4: Sustainable Design and Community Character

To encourage the sustainable design of communities with the goal of reducing urban sprawl while supporting and strengthening the character of the community.

Strategy 4.1 - Identify “Priority Growth Areas” based on application of Smart Planning Principles to projected development and population demand identified in the local smart plan. Priority Growth Areas may include those which focus on aspects of development such as revitalization, expansion, rural/transitional, and Transportation Oriented Design (TODs), among others.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
4.1.1	Identification, quantification, and prioritization of Priority Growth Areas for a 20 year period and percent of projected demand the Priority Growth Areas will accommodate.
4.1.2	Increase in the percentage of new development in a Priority Growth Area compared with all new development.
4.1.3	Increase in the average density (persons/acre) of new development in Priority Growth Areas compared to the average density of existing

	development.
4.1.4	Decrease in annexation of land that is not within a Priority Growth Area.
4.1.5	Increase in public investment in Priority Growth Areas.

Strategy 4.2 - Identify “Natural Resource Protection” and “Agricultural Protection” areas.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
4.2.1	Identification, quantification, and prioritization of Natural Resource Protection areas.
4.2.2	Decrease in the percentage of new development in protection areas compared with all new development.
4.2.3	Increase in the amount of land within protection areas which are protected by land development regulations, special state programs or voluntary means.
4.2.4	Identification, quantification and prioritization of Agricultural Protection areas.
4.2.5	Increase in the amount of land devoted to local food production.

Strategy 4.3 - Encourage sustainable development and building practices and energy efficiency.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
4.3.1	Increase in the amount of new development utilizing low impact development (LID) techniques.
4.3.2	Increase in the amount of new development meeting or exceeding recognized energy conservation standards.
4.3.3	Increase in the amount of development of “reused” land and buildings (i.e. redevelopment and historic preservation as opposed to new development on greenfield sites).
4.3.4	Increase in the conversion of vacant or underutilized, buildable land within Priority Growth Areas.
4.3.5	Increase in the amount of new development achieving energy conservation certification from a recognized national program (e.g. LEED, NAHB, IGCC).

Strategy 4.4 - Maintain and strengthen community character and identity.

	<b>Benchmarks</b>
4.4.1	Identification of cultural and historic districts.
4.4.2	Increase in compatible development in cultural and historic districts.
4.4.3	Increase in access to local foods through farmer’s markets, community gardens, community supported agriculture (CSAs), institutional purchase programs and other programs.
4.4.4	Increase in the number of local food system plans adopted across the state through participation in regional food system working groups and other similar programs.

**Justification**



- Goal setting gives the OPGIS and Coordinating Council a basis from which programs crafted and resources allocated.
- Clear benchmarks give the State, COGs, and local governments guidance on smart plan implementation and smart investing.
- Pre-set benchmarks give local governments and COGs adequate notice on what measurements need to be collected in the future, allowing for efficiency in collecting data.
- Quantifiable and specific benchmarks that are reported out annually give the Legislature hard data from which new programs can be created or existing programs and processes adjusted.

#### **Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)**

- Incorporate “State Goals and Benchmarks” into OPGIS Administrative Rules.

#### **References**

2. Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut (2005). Office of Policy and Management.
21. Oregon’s Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines (March 2010) Department of Land Conservation and Development.
22. Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Chapter 110-12-1-06. State Planning Goals and Objectives (May 2006).
23. Vermont Statutes Chapter 24, Section 4302: Planning and Development Goals. State of Vermont.

## **2. Regional Planning Framework**

*Recommendation 2 satisfies the following tasks charged to the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force in SF 2389:*

- *Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.*
- *Review city and county comprehensive plans to determine the number of such plans that address the hazards as listed in the Hazards Element of the local comprehensive plan guidelines and the adequacy of such plans in addressing those hazards.*

The regional planning framework proposed below will facilitate the development of regional smart plans that will promote greater economic opportunity, enhance environmental integrity, improve public health, and foster a high quality of life for rural and urban areas within each region. The regional plans will evaluate and plan for the present and future needs and resources of the entire region, fostering a unified vision and collaborative actions to address issues that extend beyond one political jurisdiction’s boundaries. The need for regional planning was emphasized by the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission as particularly useful for mitigating the impacts of natural disasters. While regional planning activities are proposed to be mandatory across the state, they will serve as advisory guidance documents for local government planning and decision-making.

*Recommendation 2.1: Identify Iowa’s Councils of Governments (COGs) as the organizations responsible for comprehensive regional smart planning throughout Iowa.*

Councils of Governments (COGs) provide professional planning, programming, and technical assistance to Iowa's cities and counties, and across multiple jurisdictions. COG regions are based on various county aggregations. Currently, the state is served by seventeen COGs, with each agency serving between four and nine counties. Seven counties in central Iowa are currently not served or served in-part by a COG.

The proposed regional planning framework suggests that Iowa's COGs serve as the responsible entities for developing comprehensive regional smart plans for their regions. Each of Iowa's regions should prepare a smart plan that guides coordinated, efficient, and effective development of and service provision throughout the region.

Regional smart plans will be mandatory under this framework and must be updated every five years. COG staff will work with local governments within their region to develop the regional smart plan, while taking into account existing local comprehensive plans and local priorities. The plans must include the required elements and components described in Recommendation 2.2.

Other recommended roles and responsibilities of the COGs as the regional planning entity include:

- Creating a regional committee to review local comprehensive plans for consistency with the regional smart plan and to provide non-binding comments on those local plans.
- Upon request by local governments, submitting local comprehensive plans to the regional committee for qualification as a "Smart Plan" (see Recommendation 2.4).
- Measuring and submitting benchmark data to OPGIS on an annual basis (see Recommendation 1.5 under State-Level Coordination recommendations).
- Providing technical assistance to member governments on development of local comprehensive plans, as requested.
- Providing representation on the Watershed Planning Advisory Council.
- Incorporating watershed strategies and goals from watershed plans into the comprehensive regional smart plans (Recommendation 4.1).

To facilitate development of comprehensive regional smart plans, Iowa's COGs must be provided with adequate resources to carry out recommendations from the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force related to regional planning efforts. Options for providing financial resource could include allowing COGs to receive levy authority or tapping into other guaranteed funding streams discussed later in this report (see Recommendation 3).

## **Justification**

Iowa's COGs serve as the state's regional planning entities. Established almost 40 years ago, COGs are familiar entities throughout the state with established partnerships with local governments and state and federal agencies. COGs currently prepare various regional plans, which should be integrated into the proposed regional comprehensive plans.

As Regional Planning Affiliations through the Iowa Department of Transportation, COGs plan for and program the distribution of federal transportation funds within their regions, including highway projects, transit projects, trails and other enhancement programs. Iowa's COGs serve as Economic Development Districts for the United States Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. As such, each COG prepares a comprehensive economic

development strategy for their respective region. Iowa's COGs have been very involved with hazard mitigation planning efforts throughout Iowa, including the development of multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans. Many of the COGs are administering regional housing trust funds throughout the State, and have prepared regional housing needs assessments. COGs are experienced in working with local governments, community groups, and residents to develop regional plans or strategies.

#### **Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)**

- Identify COGs as responsible entities for creation of a regional smart plan via legislation or administrative rule.
- Allocation of resources to COGs for regional comprehensive planning purposes via an existing funding source, identification of a new funding source, or a combination of new and existing resources. Matching resources via COGs, local governments, federal agencies, or other sources should be considered.

#### **References**

24. Integrating Land Use, Transportation, and Economic Development in Pennsylvania (2010). NADO Research Foundation.
25. Iowa Code Chapter 28H: Councils of Governments. State of Iowa.
26. Land Use Planning and Management in Iowa (1977). State of Iowa Office for Planning and Programming.
27. Milestone Report #3, Goals, Strategies, and a Plan for Action - Year 2030 Regional Comprehensive Plan (April 25, 2008). East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
28. Regional Planning in America: Updating Earlier Visions (November 2000). Seltzer, E. *Land Lines*: Volume 12, Number 6. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.
29. Shaping our Future 21<sup>st</sup> Century: FAQs (February 2007). East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
30. The Promise of Wisconsin's 1999 Comprehensive Planning Law: Land Use Policy Reforms to Support Active Living (2208). Schilling, J & Keyes, S. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*: Volume 33, Number 3. Duke University Press.
31. Iowa Association of Regional Councils.

*Recommendation 2.2: Comprehensive regional smart plans should be completed within five years after legislation is enacted.*

Under this framework, regional plans are advisory in nature. Regional plans are designed to serve as a guidance document for local governments as they prepare their local comprehensive plans. Regional plans would not establish requirements for local comprehensive plans within the region, but would establish goals and identify resources that local governments may wish to consider when creating their local plan.

Regional smart plans would be required from all eighteen regions. The characteristics of each region are unique. As such, the contents of regional smart plans will vary somewhat based on the attributes and priorities of the region. Regional smart plans should include, at minimum, the requirements listed below:

1. Regional plans must include the 13 elements outlined in the Iowa Smart Planning Legislative Guide. These elements include:
  - 1) Public Participation
  - 2) Issues and Opportunities
  - 3) Land Use
  - 4) Housing
  - 5) Public Infrastructure and Utilities
  - 6) Transportation
  - 7) Economic Development
  - 8) Agricultural and Natural Resources
  - 9) Community Facilities
  - 10) Community Character
  - 11) Hazards
  - 12) Intergovernmental Collaboration
  - 13) Implementation
2. Regional plans must consider the following 10 Smart Planning Principles:
  - 1) Collaboration
  - 2) Efficiency, Transparency and Consistency
  - 3) Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy
  - 4) Occupational Diversity
  - 5) Revitalization
  - 6) Housing Diversity
  - 7) Community Character
  - 8) Natural Resources and Agricultural Protection
  - 9) Sustainable Design
  - 10) Transportation Diversity
3. Regional plans must address prevention and mitigation of, response to, and recovery from catastrophic flooding.
4. Regional plans must be consistent with the goals and strategies developed for the applicable watershed(s) if such plan exists (Recommendation 4.1).
5. Regional plans must outline a process for cooperation, collaboration and decision-making between member governments for multi-jurisdictional projects/programs.
6. Regional plans must be updated every five years. Any amendments to the regional plans within intervening years must be submitted for review and approval by the state Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems (OPGIS).

**Justification**

Regional planning helps create efficiencies by maximizing investments made in regional services (i.e. regional transportation systems) and infrastructure investments. Joint projects may

be identified by the process, allowing local governments to explore ways to share costs while addressing their communities' needs.

Planning at the COG level will help promote multi-jurisdictional collaboration on projects and address issues that span across local governments. Watersheds are a critical issue to address within regional plans, and an issue that does not abide to city and county boundaries. However, other issues impact entire regions as well. Regional planning provides a forum to discuss and address those issues as well as an opportunity to collaborate on solutions. COG regions are established forums for other areas of planning, and these regions are familiar to local governments.

Local planning involves considerable time and financial resources. For many small communities, these are barriers to undertaking a planning process. Regional planning is beneficial to these communities, as it provides planning resources to those communities that struggle to find the resources to plan independently.

Regional plans can also provide baseline data to communities as they develop their local comprehensive plans. Information in the areas of transportation, economics, natural resources and other areas can be shared with local governments through the region plan. This information can also be shared with the State, as Iowa looks for the most effective ways to collect and share data.

#### **Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)**

- Amend Iowa State Code chapter 28H to include the requirement that regional plans be developed every five years and identify required elements of a regional plan.
- Allocation of resources to COGs for regional comprehensive planning purposes via an existing funding source, identification of a new funding source, or a combination of new and existing resources. Matching resources via COGs, local governments, federal agencies, or other sources should be considered.

#### **References**

32. Wisconsin Code 66, Section 1001, Subsection 5: Applicability of a Regional Planning Commission's Plan. State of Wisconsin.
33. 2030 Regional Development Framework (2006). Twin Cities Metropolitan Council.

#### **Recommendation 2.3: Create a sustainable funding source for regional smart planning**

A sustainable funding source should be created to aid COGs in creating regional smart plans. There are several options for funding these activities. The Smart Planning Task Force recommends considering:

- Redirecting a portion of existing funding sources (e.g. Community Development Block Grant funds, Real Estate Transfer Tax, etc.).
- Establishing a new funding source.
- Allowing COGs levy authority to conduct regional planning.

#### **Justification**

To undertake regional comprehensive planning, Iowa's COGs will need additional resources. Development of regional plans will require considerable resources and staff time. In the early 1990's when Iowa's COGs partnered with the Iowa Department of Transportation to carry out regional transportation planning, most COGs did not have professional transportation planners on staff. However, funding was allocated to the COGs for this effort, which allowed each organization to provide staff and resources necessary to conduct regional transportation planning. Today, the COGs continue to manage transportation planning for their regions. COGs will have the capacity to take lead regional comprehensive planning efforts with sufficient funding.

Such planning is necessary to address issues that are geographically large in scope and cross multiple jurisdictions, such as flood mitigation.

#### **Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)**

- Legislature should consider all options and take action as deemed appropriate to adequately support regional planning. Options for funding regional planning efforts could include, but should not be limited to:
  - Amending the Iowa Code to create a new funding source(s).
  - Redirecting current appropriations.
  - Providing levy authority to COGs.

#### **References**

- 34. Vermont Code Title 24, Chapter 117, Section 4306: Municipal and Regional Planning Fund. State of Vermont.
- 35. Connecticut Statutes Chapter 4, Section 124q: Regional Planning Grant-in-Aid. State of Connecticut.

#### **Recommendation 2.4: Councils of Governments should establish a Plan Review Committee in each region for local smart plan review**

Regional Plan Review Committees (PRC) should be formed by each COG to assist with regional planning and local plan review. Upon request, the PRCs would be responsible for reviewing and qualifying regional smart plans before submittal to the state Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems (OPGIS).

PRCs should review local comprehensive plans from within the region to qualify plans as a "Smart Plan." To qualify as a "Smart Plan," local plans must meet the following elements, as outlined in Senate File 2389:

- 1) Contain the 13 Smart Plan Elements;
- 2) Address prevention and mitigation of, response to, and recovery from catastrophic flooding;
- 3) Consider the 10 Smart Planning Principles.

The committees will utilize a checklist or similar instrument to determine if the plan addresses the three items listed above. PRCs will issue a Letter of Qualification for local plans that qualify. This letter may be provided to state agencies to document the community has a smart plan,

which should provide the community additional consideration for state funding programs and technical assistance.

An appeal process should be instituted to allow local governments an avenue to pursue should a local government disagree with a PRC's decision on local smart plan qualification. The appeal process should be conducted at the state level to provide local governments with the opportunity to have their local plan reviewed by the state OPGIS.

The PRCs should also provide non-binding comments to cities and counties after plan review. Comments may relate to the regional plan, and provide suggestions as to items the community may wish to consider further in their planning efforts. Once comments are provided, it is up to the local government as to how those comments are addressed. Local governments may or may not make revisions to the local plan based on comments received from the PRC. Comments provided by the PRC are advisory only and will not require any additional action on the part of the local government.

While each region will establish its own PRC, some requirements for committee membership should be established. At minimum, each RPC should include representation from the following areas:

- Planning & zoning officials
- Elected officials
- Watershed planning entities
- Real estate/developers
- Economic development organizations
- Environmental organizations

Regions should have the ability to add additional members to their PRCs in order to accurately reflect the interests within their region.

As some COG regions are multi-state, it is suggested that each PRC include only Iowa residents to ensure statewide consistency in committee make up and the plan review process.

The intent of the regional review of local plans is to encourage collaboration between local governments within the region, and to share information with local governments that can be helpful as they develop local comprehensive plans. Local planning continues to be locally-driven under the proposed framework.

### **Justification**

Establishing a regional review process for local comprehensive plans creates a streamlined review process for local governments. This should provide communities with qualification in a timely manner, which is important for communities seeking additional consideration for state funding programs. Allowing regional PRCs to qualify local plans as a "Smart Plan" will limit paperwork and eliminate confusion for grant reviewers at the state-level.

Regional review of local plans will encourage the inclusion of hazard mitigation elements in local comprehensive plans. As tasked in SF2389, the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force's Local Comprehensive Planning Committee evaluated local comprehensive plans in the State of Iowa to determine the extent to which hazards were considered in planning. Nine cities and three counties (based on population tiers) were used in the evaluation. This study showed that:

- Only six of the nine cities sampled has an approved FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan or is part of the county's plan. Only one of the counties sampled has an approved plan while a second county is in the process of updating their expired plan.
- None of the sampled comprehensive plans contained a Hazard Mitigation or Hazards Assessment section, although many of the plans referenced considering certain hazards in the planning process. These references were mostly concerning flood plains and flood damage mitigation.
- Only half of the plans sampled contained a section specifically on flood plain management with regard to land use. These sections came in the form of both text and maps.

A 2005 study by Burby indicated that per capita insured losses decreased from \$33 to \$20 if all states enact legislation requiring local comprehensive plans that require consideration of natural hazards. This estimate is conservative as Burby's data relies only on insured losses; with most losses the result of flooding in Iowa, which has a higher likelihood of not being covered by insurance, the savings would likely be significantly higher. FEMA estimates that in 2008, fewer than 10% of property owners impacted by the flood had flood insurance. Additionally, Iowa is experiencing flooding on a more regular basis, resulting in more savings over a longer period of time.

The regional review process also encourages collaboration between entities, and promotes consistency between the regional plan and local plans. Comments provided by the PRCs can inform local governments on projects in other communities that may be of interest, identify opportunities for cost-sharing on services or projects, and provide input regarding regional priorities that a community may wish to consider when developing its local plan.

#### **Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)**

- Development of qualification review guidance by the state OPGIS.
- Establish criteria for PRC membership.
- Creation of the PRCs by the COGs.

#### **References**

36. Integrating Hazard Assessment into Comprehensive Planning (August 2010). Iowa Smart Planning Task Force – Comprehensive Planning Committee.
37. Have State Comprehensive Planning Mandates Reduced Insured Losses from Natural Disasters? (2005) Burby, R. *Natural Hazards Review: Volume 6, Issues 2*.
38. Vermont Statutes Title 24, Chapter 117, Section 4350: Review and Consultation Regarding Municipal Planning Efforts. State of Vermont.

*Recommendation 2.5: A regional entity should be established or identified in Central Iowa for the purposes of regional planning, implementation and local smart plan review.*

Currently, there is no Council of Governments located in the central Iowa region. This region consists of seven counties: Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, and Warren. A regional entity should be formed or an existing entity should be charged with undertaking regional planning for this area. This regional entity should also create a Plan Review Committee to handle review of local comprehensive plans within the region.



The central Iowa region could be addressed in a number of ways. The responsibilities of an existing entity could be expanded to include regional planning activities. The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, which is now undertaking comprehensive regional planning for the Des Moines metropolitan area, or another organization could fill this role. Local governments in the central Iowa region could opt to form a new regional planning organization. The central Iowa region may also decide that more than one entity should be formed to serve the seven county area. Regardless of the option selected, it is essential for central Iowa to identify a planning entity to ensure that regional planning occurs in a consistent manner across the state.

As the determination of a regional planning entity is made, local governments within central Iowa may wish to seek assistance from a variety of entities. Groups able to assist this region include the Iowa League of Cities, the Iowa State Association of Counties, the Metropolitan Coalition, Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Iowa Association of Regional Councils, and the State of Iowa.

### **Justification**

As the proposed regional planning framework is designed around COG boundaries, the seven-county central Iowa region currently not served or served in-part by a COG must be addressed. A regional planning entity needs to be identified and deemed responsible for regional planning in the area. In addition to preparing a regional comprehensive plan, this entity is needed to facilitate the creation of a Plan Review Committee responsible for reviewing and commenting on local comprehensive plans. Identification or the creation of a central Iowa organization is necessary to ensure consistent application of regional planning and qualification procedures for local smart plans.

### **Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)**

- Amend Iowa State Code Chapter 28H to recognize the entity or entities responsible for regional planning in the central Iowa region.

### **References**

25. Iowa Code Chapter 28H: Councils of Governments. State of Iowa.

## **3. Financial Incentives & Technical Assistance**

*Recommendation 3 satisfies the following tasks charged to the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force in SF 2389:*

- *Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.*
- *Recommend the means by which technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning can be provided and administered.*
- *Evaluate state policies, programs, statutes, and rules to determine whether they should be revised to integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles*

The Task Force is recommending an array of financial incentives and technical assistance to encourage smart planning at the local and regional level. The State has a vested interest to ensure there is capacity for regional and local planning. Regional planning entities and COGs do not typically engage in comprehensive regional planning due primarily to a lack of statutory

requirement and necessary resources. In addition to financial resources, meaningful application of smart planning principles may not be possible without a necessary educational component to increase capacity and advocate best practices. This proposal recommends financial and programmatic incentives, as well as establishing sound technical assistance and availability of resources.

**Recommendation: 3.1: Create a sustainable funding source for a smart planning grant program at the state-level for local smart plan development and implementation.**

A sustainable grant program should be created at the state level to assist local governments in the development of local smart plans. Such support could also be used to create multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plans for neighboring communities and counties. While plan creation is the focus, a portion of the funding may be allocated to plan implementation. There are several options for funding these activities. The Task Force recommends considering:

- Redirect a portion of existing funding sources, such as Community Development Block Grant, gaming monies, Real Estate Transfer Tax, etc.
- Establish a new funding program.

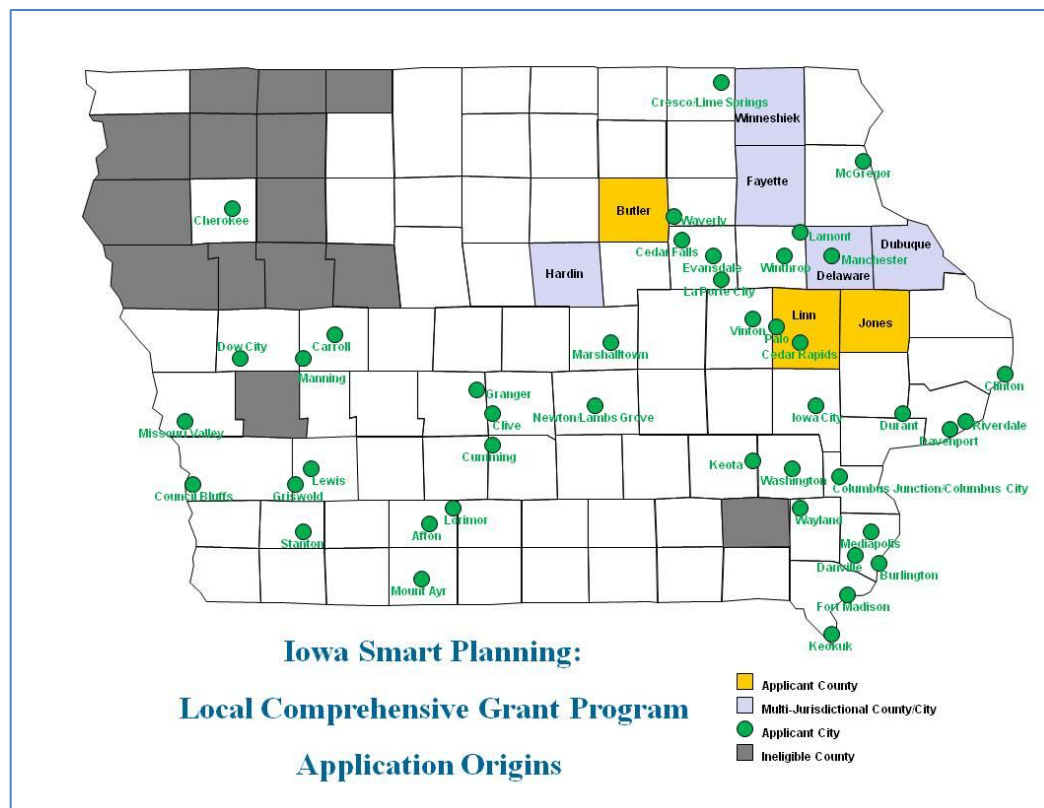
Additionally, federal agencies, such as the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development and the United State Department of Housing and Urban Development, could be approached for additional planning funds that could be leveraged by state and federal dollars.

**Justification**

- Many local governments currently lack the necessary resources to conduct local smart planning. State support for a portion of the cost of undertaking local smart planning would significantly incentivize this action.
- The Rebuild Iowa Office and the Iowa Department of Economic Development recently made \$1 million dollars of supplemental disaster Community Development Block Grant funds available to local governments for the purpose of developing local comprehensive plans. These are one-time funds that were available to any city or county government in the 85 counties that were declared Presidential disasters areas from the 2008 storms. Even with the relatively short notice and application window (2.5 months) and ineligibility of 14 of the state's counties, local governments responded enthusiastically to the opportunity. Fifty-one applications were submitted, including 8 multi-jurisdictional applications. The total grant request was just over \$1.225 million, exceeding the amount available. The success of this program illustrates demand and demonstrates how relatively small incentives can generate traction for smart planning in communities across the state. Figure 3.1 below shows the communities and counties that submitted applications.

**Figure 3.1**  
**Local Smart Planning Grant Applicants**

- State support of local planning will assist in decreasing long-term



state costs due to disaster losses, will assist with efficient and effective investment decision-making, proactively foster economic development, and impact the state in other positive ways. A 2005 study conducted by Burby showed a decrease in per capita insured losses

from \$33 to \$20 in states with mandatory local planning that included integration of hazard mitigation.

### **Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)**

- Legislature should consider all options and take action as deemed appropriate to adequately support local planning:
  - Amend the Iowa Code to create a new funding source(s).
  - Redirect current appropriations.

### **References**

34. Vermont Code Title 24, Chapter 117, Section 4306: Municipal and Regional Planning Fund. State of Vermont.
37. Have State Comprehensive Planning Mandates Reduced Insured Losses from Natural Disasters? (2005) Burby, R. *Natural Hazards Review: Volume 6, Issues 2*.
39. Wisconsin Statute Chapter 16, Section 965: Planning Grants to Local Government Units. State of Wisconsin.

### **Recommendation 3.2: Expand the menu of financing options available to local governments develop to and implement smart plans.**

While smart planning will save local governments money in the long run additional funding will be required to begin the process for many. In order to make smart planning a viable option for local governments that may not currently have the capacity, a variety of financial options should be considered. One such option is to allow local governments the authority to levy a special property tax for creation of a smart plan. This levy would fund activities related to the planning process including creation of the plan document, data collection, visioning and public input sessions, and other related activities.

To help implement smart plans, funding options for projects outlined in or consistent with their qualified smart plan may be made available. Funding streams may be layered and leveraged for planning and implementation activities, resulting in complimentary community benefits from multiple funding streams.

The following are examples that may be considered and are not to be construed as a comprehensive list:

- Review existing levies and budgets to determine how funds could be redirected for planning.
- Expand use of franchise fee revenue to include smart plan implementation.
- Add X cents to capital improvement fund levy to only be used for capital improvement projects described in the smart plan.
- Allow for an energy tax on non-renewable energy production and/or consumption.
- Consider using road use tax and stormwater fees for related planning purposes.
- Define smart planning efforts and municipal building projects in identified Priority Growth Areas as an essential corporate purpose Iowa Code, Chapter 384.24.
- Enable the use of impact fees as a means of paying for the impacts of development.
- Allow the City Capital Improvement Levy already allowed by law through referendum to be initiated by reverse referendum

## Justification

- Local governments may struggle to identify necessary resources to undertake smart planning. This recommendation provides an additional option for meeting that challenge. Comprehensive smart plans range in cost from approximately \$10,000 for small communities to over \$100,000 for complex plans in the state's largest communities.
- This recommendation allows local governments flexibility and additional options for accessing and utilizing sources of revenue to implement projects. Local governments would not be required to utilize such options.

## Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)

- Amend Iowa Code (Chapters 381 and 384) to allow cities and counties to levy for creation of a smart plan.
- Legislature should consider the above implementation assistance options and amend the Iowa Code to provide local governments with the appropriate authority and guidance.
- Define Priority Growth Area in State Code, possibly within the Local Comprehensive Planning guidance section (SF 2389). Example definition: Priority Growth Areas (PGAs) are overlay zones in which local governments wish to steer development and funding to further the visions and goals identified in their smart plan. PGAs should have existing or currently planned infrastructure access and should generally follow smart planning principles. Local governments may designate PGAs during the comprehensive planning process. Examples of PGAs include areas targeted for revitalization or infill, Transportation Oriented Design (TOD) development areas, and mixed use zones.

## References

40. Wisconsin Statute Chapter 16, Section 0617: Impact Fees. State of Wisconsin.
41. Washington Code 82.02.060: Impact Fees. State of Washington.
42. Utah Code Title 11, Chapter 36: Impact Fees. State of Utah.
43. Indiana Code Title 36, Article 7, Chapter 4, Section 1300: Impact Fees. State of Indiana.
44. New Energy Use Tax Allows City to Increase General Fund Expenditures (June 13, 2010). *Standard Examiner*.
45. Climate Action Plan Tax (2006). City of Boulder.
46. New Hampshire Statute Chapter 83-E: Electricity Consumption Tax. State of New Hampshire.

Recommendation 3.3: State agencies should give additional consideration to grant applications from communities that have adopted a qualified smart plan to receive state funding for infrastructure and public facilities projects that affect land use, transportation, stormwater management, and floodplain protection, where appropriate.

The OPGIS Coordinating Council will assist with coordination of state investment decisions regarding public facilities related to land use, transportation, stormwater management, and floodplain protection. To support this work, the Task Force recommends that state agencies provide additional consideration on grant applications for projects that are identified in and are consistent with local and/or regional smart plans. For projects that are not specifically described in the smart plan of the local government, applications could include a question(s) to explain how the proposed project is consistent with an adopted smart plan. Additional consideration will provide an incentive to local communities to conduct smart planning and ensure that projects

identified within those plans follow the Smart Planning Principles. Additionally, support for smart planning projects will facilitate achievement of the State's vision (Recommendation 1.3).

### **Justification**

- Communities that work to meaningfully develop and implement smart plans should receive some form of priority for state funding.
- Additional consideration on grant applications will help to guide state investment to smart projects, thus ensuring limited state resources are directed toward the most effective and efficient use.
- A successful model for such an incentive has been implemented by the Iowa Great Places program, which is administered by the Department of Cultural Affairs.

### **Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)**

- Amend the Iowa Code to direct agencies to provide additional consideration for grant applications for projects that are identified in and are consistent with local and/or regional smart plans.
- State agencies should amend appropriate administrative rules to include additional consideration of smart plans.

### **References**

11. New York Environmental Conservation Law, Article 6- State Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act
47. Capital Improvement Program: Capital Project Evaluation Criteria. Baltimore County, MD.
48. Smart Growth Redevelopment Funding. State of New Jersey.
49. Iowa Code Chapter 38 – Iowa IJobs II Program
50. Connecticut Governor Rendell's Executive Order #15: Section 2, Paragraph G and H (October 2006). Office of the Governor.

### **Recommendation 3.4: Create a smart planning education program and toolbox for local government staff, officials, and the public.**

Smart planning educational programming should be developed and provided to professional planners, elected officials, and all interested persons. The programming should focus on the benefits of smart planning for communities, and what smart planning means in terms of plan elements and implementation. The programming should reflect the Iowa Smart Planning Principles.

One product that should be produced through this effort is a Smart Planning Toolbox. The Toolbox should include information, clarification, and examples on the smart planning process and smart planning principles; model plans, ordinances, zoning codes, energy codes, building codes, and permitting; regulatory mechanisms; best practices and lessons learned from poor planning and development decisions; and a clearinghouse of grant opportunities and contact information for further assistance. A menu of free or low-cost planning services available to communities through non-profit and private organizations should also be included in the Toolbox.

The educational programming will be led by the Iowa League of Cities, ISAC, IARC and the regent universities in collaboration with the OPGIS and other interested stakeholders. The Smart Planning Toolbox should be housed at and made accessible by the OPGIS.

### **Justification**

- An educational program is necessary to ensure that local elected officials, staff, and citizens are knowledgeable about the benefits of smart planning and have the necessary knowledge to effectively apply smart planning concepts within their communities.
- A centralized location for smart planning tools and best practices is necessary to compliment educational efforts concerning smart planning and will facilitate consistency of application across the state.

### **Action Steps (Legislative/ Administrative)**

- Allocation of resources to support educational programming.

### **References**

51. Institute for Local Government
52. Local Government Institute of Wisconsin.
53. Municipal Research and Services Center for Washington.
54. Louisiana Land Use Toolkit.
55. Green and Growing: Tools for Responsible Growth. State of Connecticut.
56. Florida Planning Toolbox.

## **4. Watershed Planning & Implementation**

*Recommendation 4 satisfies the following task charged to the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force in SF 2389:*

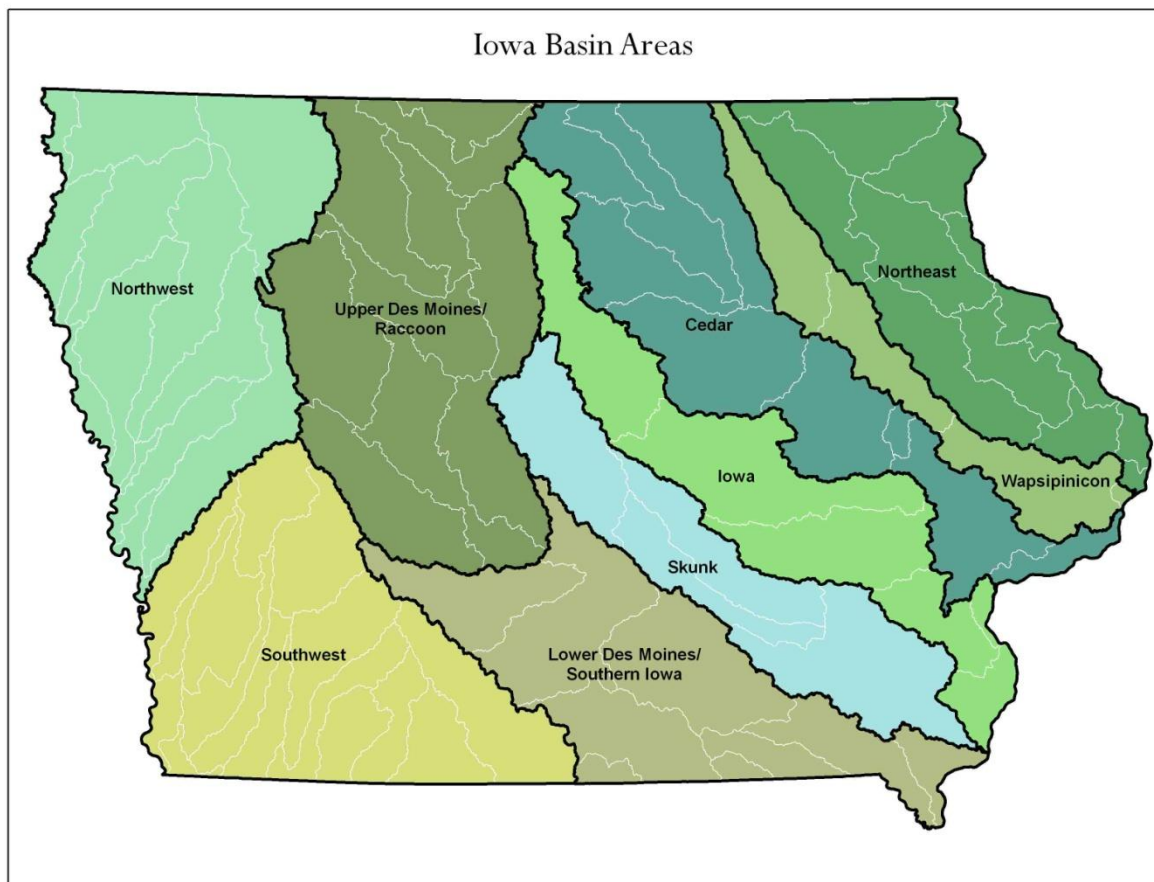
- *Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.*

Iowans have been engaged in numerous water related task forces in the past decade and the overarching theme that has emerged from each is that planning for water based-issues needs to take place on a watershed basis. As a result of the 2007 Watershed Quality Planning Task Force report the Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) was established in 2008 to coordinate the work of state and federal agencies in watershed work. The Task Force report identified the need for \$5 million annually to carry out HUC-8\* watershed assessment, planning, and prioritization. The same report identified a need of \$2-5 million for planning and implementation in each of the state's 1700 HUC-12\* sub-watersheds. Federal and state agencies are carrying out this effort now, but additional resources would fulfill the need to take this to the level recommended by every task force (including the WRCC Flood Plain Task Force) that has been convened in the past 10-12 years. The Watershed Planning Advisory Council (WPAC) was established in 2010 to provide a mechanism for interested stakeholders to make watershed related recommendations to the WRCC, the Legislature, and the Governor. The varied makeup of each council provides an opportunity for coordination among agencies and stakeholders to improve watershed planning and implementation.

Recommendation 4.1: Enhance watershed planning, coordination, and implementation by creating goals and strategies referencing land use for each of Iowa's six major river basins and three major river regions.

The Task Force recommends that watershed planning be coordinated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in conjunction with the Iowa Flood Center, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Attention should be focused on creation of

goals and strategies for each of the six major river basins and three major river regions in Iowa (see Figure 4.1) and exchange information and recommendations with community planners, COGs, and local governments for integration of watershed strategies into smart comprehensive land use plans. A coordinator should be assigned to each basin and region to lead planning efforts, coordinate across political boundaries, and translate technical information. The six major river basins are the Cedar, Iowa, Lower Des Moines/ Southern Iowa, Skunk, Upper Des Moines/ Raccoon, and the Wapsipinicon. The three major river regions include Northeast Iowa, Northwest Iowa, and Southwest Iowa.



**Figure 4.1 The Major River Basins and River Regions in Iowa**

#### **Justification**

- Few decisions have as big an impact on the volume of runoff, water quality, and the sustainability of water resources as land use, yet these water related concerns are often disconnected in terms of comprehensive land use planning. Developing watershed plans that specifically identify critical land use issues, opportunities, and goals will help planners create more integrated and effective regional comprehensive smart plans.
- Consideration of watershed goals fosters stewardship of resources and greater collaboration between neighboring regions.
- Connecting watershed issues with land use will help mitigate and prepare for flooding hazards.
- Goals and strategies prepared by the Iowa DNR and other stakeholders provide scientific data on which COGs and local governments can base floodplain land use, significantly



streamlining the workload of regional and local governments in addressing catastrophic flooding, as well as other concerns like water quality issues.

- Coordination of visioning and planning should be done throughout the river basin or river region to ensure compatibility with watershed planning and smart comprehensive land use plans throughout the basins and regions (including both upland and lowland areas). It is recommended that more detailed planning take place in HUC-8 sub-basins. These HUC-8 plans can be incorporated into regional planning processes.
- HUC-8 plans should be further refined by planning implementation of watershed protection projects at a scale no larger than HUC-12 sub-watersheds. HUC-8 planning should prioritize and target HUC-12 sub-watersheds with the most opportunity for flood reduction and water quality improvement for implementation projects.

### **Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)**

- Add a requirement for watershed plans (with elements to be determined by IDNR and others) to the Iowa Code.
- A watershed advocate position should be created to assist the WRCC and the WPAC with their work, to carry out these recommendations, and to oversee basin coordination and basin planning. Appropriate funding needs to accompany such a position. This position may be appointed by the Governor.
- Add a representative from the Iowa Association of Regional Councils to the WPAC.
- An intensive strategic review of watershed planning and implementation should take place and involve significant watershed related partners from federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and institutions. Such a review would, at a minimum, identify a collective vision for watershed programs, inventory existing watershed programs, highlight gaps and duplications of existing programs, and establish steps necessary to realize the collective vision for watershed planning and implementation.
- Watershed planning, targeting, and implementation require skilled staff to deliver plans acceptable to a broad range of stakeholders and that are targeted to priority landscape issues. The State needs to provide adequate funding that maintains and enhances a watershed delivery system that meets these goals and yields transformative, beneficial enhancement of water resources in Iowa.

### **References**

57. Water Resources and Land Use Planning: Watershed-based Strategies for Amador and Calaveras Counties (2008). Local Government Commission.
58. Keuka Lake Watershed Land Use Planning Guide – An Intermunicipal Action Strategy (2009). Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.
59. Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan – Land Use and Land Management Recommendations (2005). Clallam County, WA.
60. Watershed Based Plans and Watershed Management Plan. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.
61. Approved Watershed Plans. Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.
62. Kentucky Wet Growth Tools for Sustainable Development: A Handbook on Land Use and Water. University of Kentucky.
63. Protecting Water Resources with Smart Growth. United State Environmental Protection Agency.

\*A Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) is a U.S. Geological Survey term/method for identifying watersheds throughout the world; the larger the digit, the smaller the watershed. A HUC-8 ranges in size from 500,000 to 2 million acres and is generally considered a watershed. A HUC-

12 ranges in size from 10,000-40,000 acres and is generally considered a sub-watershed. Combinations of HUC-8 watersheds that lead from one to another are generally considered basins. For example, the Cedar basin is made up of six HUC-8 watersheds. There are approximately 56 HUC-8 watersheds in Iowa and approximately 1700 HUC-12 sub-watersheds.

## **5. State Code Consistency**

*Recommendation 5 supports all of the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force's recommendations by beginning the process of creating consistency and clarity in the Iowa Code regarding smart planning.*

### **Recommendation 5.1: Make the definition of "local comprehensive plan" uniform throughout the Iowa Code.**

Many sections of the current State Code regarding planning issues are out of date. Specifically, the Committee recommends that the term "general plan" should be changed to "comprehensive plan" or otherwise stated to be equivalent in Chapter 403. Additionally, the term "comprehensive plan" in Chapters 354 and 368 should be made uniform with SF 2389. This change would be a necessary first step to creating consistency in language and policy.

#### **Justification**

- Development of a transparent and efficient planning process at all levels of governments requires consistency and clarity between sections of the Iowa State Code relating to local comprehensive planning.

#### **Action Steps (Legislative/Administrative)**

- Update Chapter 403, changing "general plan" to "comprehensive plan" and using the same "comprehensive plan" definition as utilized by Chapters 335 and 414 as amended by SF 2389.
- Update Chapters 354 and 368 to ensure that the definition of "comprehensive plan" is made uniform with the definition as amended by SF 2389.

#### **References**

- 64. Iowa Code- Chapter 354: Platting – Division and Subdivision of Land.
- 65. Iowa Code- Chapter 368: City Development.
- 66. Iowa Code- Chapter 403: Urban Renewal.

## **SECTION 4: TIMELINE**

The Iowa Smart Planning Task Force believes that each of the recommendations included in this report are worth serious consideration by the General Assembly and Governor, and provide the necessary structure and tools for effective implementation of the Smart Planning bill. Recognizing that certain actions need to happen before others, as well as budget constraints, the following timeline is proposed as a guide for implementing the Task Force's recommendations:

### **YEAR ONE - 2011**

- Establish the Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems (OPGIS) and OPGIS Coordinating Council (Recommendation 1.1); begin goal and priority setting,

coordinate educational efforts, and establish plan for the statewide geographic information system.

- Create a sustainable funding source for a smart planning grant program at the state-level for local smart plan development and implementation (Recommendation 3.1)
- Create a smart planning education program and toolbox for local government staff, officials, and the public (Recommendation 3.4).
- Establish the Watershed Advocate position (Recommendation 4.1).
- Identify the councils of governments as the organizations responsible for comprehensive regional smart planning throughout Iowa (Recommendation 2.1) and establish administrative rules and processes for regional planning.
- Integrate the Smart Planning Principles into the State's Enterprise Strategic Planning Process (Recommendation 1.3).
- Provide training and technical assistance to state agencies to facilitate integration of Smart Planning Principles into state investment decision-making processes (Recommendation 1.4).
- Identify "State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals and Benchmarks" as measurable goals and benchmarks for the state (Recommendation 1.5).
- Make the definition of "local comprehensive plan" uniform throughout Iowa Code (Recommendation 5.1).

#### **YEAR TWO - 2012**

- Develop an accessible statewide GIS and data management system (Recommendation 1.2).
- Create a sustainable funding source for regional smart planning (Recommendation 2.3).
- Councils of governments should establish a Planning Review Committee in each region for local smart plan review (Recommendation 2.4).
- Enhance watershed planning, coordination, and implementation by creating goals and strategies referencing land use for each of Iowa's six major river basins and three major river regions (Recommendation 4.1).

#### **YEAR THREE - 2013**

- Planning Review Committees begin qualifying local plans (Recommendation 2.4).
- All applicable state agencies should give additional consideration for having a qualified smart plan to receive state funding for infrastructure and public facilities projects that affect land use, transportation, stormwater management, and floodplain protection, where appropriate (Recommendation 3.3).

#### **YEAR FOUR - 2014**

- Expand the menu of financing options available to local governments to develop and implement smart plans (Recommendation 3.2)

#### **YEAR FIVE - 2015**

- Comprehensive regional smart plans should be completed within five years after legislation is enacted (Recommendation 2.2)
- A regional entity or entities should be established or identified by this year in Central Iowa for the purposes of regional planning, implementation, and local smart plan review (2.5)

### **SECTION 5: NEXT STEPS**

The Iowa Smart Planning Task Force remains in existence through December 31, 2012. This document is the first report from the Task Force. The Task Force will be available for dialogue with the General Assembly and Governor's Office during the 2011 legislative session as decisions are made regarding these recommendations. Upon adjournment of the session, the Task Force will meet to review legislative actions and any additional legislative directives, and determine priorities for additional research and discussion. The Task Force will look to other professionals and interested persons to identify issues that the Task Force should address. Throughout this entire process, the Task Force is open to and welcomes comment and suggestions from the public regarding the recommendations found in this report, as well as issues to discuss in future meetings.

## **SECTION 6: APPENDICES**

### **Appendix A: Annotated Bibliography**

#### **1. Connecticut Office of Policy and Management: Office of Responsible Growth.**

<http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2990&q=385462>

The Office of Responsible Growth was established to coordinate state efforts to revitalize cities, preserve the unique charm of Connecticut and build livable, economically strong communities while protecting natural resources for the enjoyment of future generations. The Office is responsible for:

- preparation of the State Plan of Conservation and Development;
- reviewing state agency plans and projects for consistency with the State Plan and targeting state funding to goals consistent with State plan;
- coordination of the Housing for Economic Growth Program, the Environmental Policy Act and the Neighborhood Revitalization Program;
- facilitation of interagency coordination on infrastructure improvements involving land use and/or water resources;
- creating regional roundtables on planning;
- developing support and incentives for communities to engage in regional planning; and
- other activities to promote sustainable land use and planning.

#### **2. Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut (2005). Office of Policy and Management.**

<http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/igp/cdplan/adopted20052010cdplan.pdf>

The Conservation and Development Policies Plan provides the policy and planning framework for administrative and programmatic actions and capital and operational investment decisions of state government. The objective of the plan is to guide a balanced response to the current and future human, economic, and environmental needs of the state. The plan identifies six growth management principles that address redevelopment and revitalization, expansion of housing options, supporting the viability of transportation options, conserving and restoring the natural environment and cultural resources, protecting and ensuring public health and safety, and promoting integrated planning across all levels.

**3. Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination.**

<http://www.stateplanning.delaware.gov/>

The Office of State Planning Coordination works to improve the coordination and effectiveness of land use decisions made by the state, county and municipal governments while building and maintaining a high quality of life in the state. The Office coordinates planning efforts across all levels; provides planning assistance to local governments; researches, analyzes and disseminates information concerning land use planning; updates the Delaware Strategies for State Policies and Spending; works to meet the spatial data and GIS needs of the state; and coordinates state agency review of major land use changes.

**4. Delaware Cabinet Committee on State Planning Issues.**

<http://delcode.delaware.gov/title29/c091/sc01/index.shtml>

The committee makes growth and development recommendations for effective and coordinated planning throughout the state. It addresses such issues as farmland preservation, open space retention, reuse of aging industrial sites, and development of transportation, water, and wastewater systems. Membership includes budget, finance, education, agriculture, transportation, economic development, public safety, health and social services, natural resources and environmental control, and the housing authority.

**5. Delaware Geographic Data Committee.**

<http://stateplanning.delaware.gov/dgdc/default.shtml>

The Delaware Geographic Data Committee is a cooperative effort among all levels of government, the academic sector, and the private sector, to build a Delaware GIS Community and improve the coordination of the use of GIS tools and spatial data in Delaware.

**6. Florida Department of Community Affairs: Division of Community Planning.**

<http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/dcp/>

The Division of Community Planning administers Florida's growth management programs and works closely with local governments and other state agencies to ensure high quality growth and sustainable patterns of development across the state. The division ensures that comprehensive plans comply with the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act. See Florida Chapter 9J for further information on roles and responsibilities of the Division.

The division has a wide-ranging impact on a number of issues affecting the future state and uses five regional planning teams which provide effective, hands-on support to local governments as they implement their comprehensive plans. These teams conduct reviews of comprehensive plans and developments of regional impact and related planning and development proposals. The teams also provide technical assistance to local governments, businesses, and citizens. The division's program areas include the following:

- Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review
- Areas of Critical State Concern
- Developments of Regional Impact
- Waterfronts Florida Program

- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning
- Homeowners' Association Covenant Revitalization

**7. Georgia Department of Community Affairs.** <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/>

The Department of Community Affairs operates a host of state and federal grant programs; serves as the state's lead agency in housing finance and development; promulgates building codes to be adopted by local governments; provides comprehensive planning, technical and research assistance to local governments; and serves as the lead agency for the state's solid waste reduction efforts.

**8. Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure: A Strategic ROI Business Plan for the Iowa Geographic Information Council (June 30, 2008).**  
[http://www.iowagis.org/igi/documents/IGI\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.iowagis.org/igi/documents/IGI_Final_Report.pdf)

This report provides a business plan and Return on Investment (ROI) analysis for the creation of the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure (IGI), a statewide GIS system. The report was commissioned by the Iowa Geographic Information Council (IGIC). The goal of the report is to facilitate the implementation of the IGI by assessing the needs of local entities that are not currently using geospatial technology, as well as those trying to maintain existing investments, and further support and promote the creation of high quality local datasets compatible with the IGI.

**9. Minnesota Department of Administration: Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis.** <http://www.qda.state.mn.us/>

The Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis offers a diverse variety of services and information to state and local government and to the public. It is comprised of the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo), Office of the State Demographer, Office of the State Archaeologist, and the Environmental Quality Board.

**10. New Jersey Department of Community Affairs: Office of Smart Growth.**  
<http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/osg/>

The Office of Smart Growth coordinates planning throughout New Jersey to protect the environment and guide future growth into compact, mixed-use development and redevelopment. The Office implements the goals of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan to achieve comprehensive, long-term planning; and integrates that planning with programmatic and regulatory land-use decisions at all levels of government and the private sector.

**11. New York Environmental Conservation Law, Article 6- State Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act.** <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/>

The New York State Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Act was passed in 2010. The Act declares “a fiscally prudent state policy of maximizing the social, economic and environmental benefits from public infrastructure development through minimizing unnecessary costs of sprawl development including environmental degradation, disinvestment in urban and suburban communities and loss of open space induced by sprawl facilitated by the funding or development of new or expanded transportation,

sewer and waste water treatment, water, education, housing and other publicly supported infrastructure inconsistent with smart growth public infrastructure criteria”.

**12. GeoStor: Arkansas' Official GIS Platform. Arkansas Geographic Information Office.** <http://www.geostor.arkansas.gov/G6/Home.html>

This website is maintained by the Arkansas Geographic Information Office. The GeoStor Platform:

- Allows state and local entities to create GIS applications;
- Allows entities to search and receive data in a format of their choosing;
- Provides quick access to disaster GIS data;
- Provides FTP access to large raster files; and
- Provides updates, technical assistance and links to outside resources.

**13. Maryland State Geographic Information Committee.** <http://www.msgic.state.md.us/>

The Maryland State Geographic Information Committee (MSGIC) was established in 1992 by the Governor of Maryland. The MSGIC acts to promote coordinated development and efficient use of resources amongst all entities involved in the collection and/or use of spatial data and GIS technologies in Maryland.

**14. Massachusetts Office of Geographic Information.** <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/>

MassGIS is the Commonwealth's Office of Geographic and Environmental Information, within the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). Through MassGIS, Massachusetts has created a comprehensive, statewide database of spatial information for environmental planning and management. The state legislature has established MassGIS as the official state agency assigned to the collection, storage and dissemination of geographic data. In addition, MassGIS is responsible for coordinating GIS activity within the Commonwealth and setting standards for geographic data to ensure universal compatibility. MassGIS staff are advised by the Massachusetts Geographic Information Council (MGIC). MGIC includes representatives from federal, state, regional, and local government agencies, GIS consultants, utilities, non-profit organizations, and academia.

**15. Minnesota GeoSpatial Information Office.** <http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/>

MnGeo coordinates the development, implementation, support and use of geospatial technology; offers guidance, training, and consulting to agencies needing extra help to improve services by implementing GIS; offers technical services to state agencies and the statewide GIS community; and promotes an enterprise-wide approach to delivery of GIS technological services.

**16. New York State Geographic Information Systems Clearinghouse. New York State Office of Cyber Security.** <http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/>

NYGIS Systems Clearinghouse contains data accessible by county, dataset name, organization or sector as well as imagery datasets, GIS tools and GIS standards.

- 17. NH GRANIT: New Hampshire's GIS Clearinghouse.** University of New Hampshire.  
<http://www.granit.unh.edu/>

NH GRANIT offers an array of geospatial services including data development and distribution, spatial analysis, online mapping, image processing, application development and training.

- 18. Utah GIS Portal. State of Utah.** <http://gis.utah.gov/>

The Utah GIS Portal is the statewide resource for sharing information pertaining to digital mapping and related technologies. The site is maintained by the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) which provides GIS and other geospatial support services.

- 19. Washington State Geographic Information Council.** <http://wagic.wa.gov/>

The WAGIC is recognized as the statewide body responsible for coordinating and facilitating the use and development of Washington State's geospatial information. The work of the WAGIC is based on the Washington State Geographic Information Strategic Plan which acts as a roadmap for utilization of the state's GIT assets on an enterprise basis.

- 20. Guide for Enterprise Strategic Planning (May 2007). State of Iowa.**  
[http://www.dom.state.ia.us/planning\\_performance/files/aga/2007/Enterprise\\_Strategic\\_Planning\\_Guidebook\\_2007.pdf](http://www.dom.state.ia.us/planning_performance/files/aga/2007/Enterprise_Strategic_Planning_Guidebook_2007.pdf)

Enterprise strategic planning provides direction and focus for all executive branch agencies. The enterprise strategic plan establishes long-range goals to achieve results valued by Iowans. The planning process and goals encourage agencies to collaborate across agency boundaries to focus on both results for Iowans and internal improvements for increased state government effectiveness and efficiency. Planning helps guide budgeting.

- 21. Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines (March 2010). Department of Land Conservation and Development.**  
[http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/docs/goals/compilation\\_of\\_statewide\\_planning\\_goals.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/docs/goals/compilation_of_statewide_planning_goals.pdf)

Oregon's planning program is based on 19 statewide planning goals. The goals express the state's policies on land use and related topics. The goals cover citizen involvement, land use planning, land use types, quality of resources, natural hazards, quality of life, economic development, housing, public facilities, transportation, energy, and sensitive areas.

- 22. Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Chapter 110-12-1-.06: State Planning Goals and Objectives (May 2005).**  
<http://www.dca.state.ga.us/development/PlanningQualityGrowth/programs/downloads/MinimumStandardsAdopted.pdf>

The Department of Community Affairs established six statewide goals, as well as 15 Quality Community Objectives that further elaborate the state goals, based on growth and development issues identified in local and regional plans throughout the state. These goals and objectives are intended to provide guidance or targets for local governments to achieve in developing and implementing their comprehensive plan.



The goals cover economic development, natural and cultural resources, community facilities and services, housing, land use and transportation, and intergovernmental coordination. The Quality Community Objectives focus on sense of place, resource protection, regional cooperation, growth and infill, education and employment options, transportation, and housing.

**23. Vermont Statutes Chapter 24, Section 4302: Planning and Development Goals. State of Vermont.**

[http://www.smartgrowthvermont.org/fileadmin/files/Toolbox/Images/Publications/State\\_Planning\\_Goals\\_final.pdf](http://www.smartgrowthvermont.org/fileadmin/files/Toolbox/Images/Publications/State_Planning_Goals_final.pdf)

The State of Vermont has outlined 12 broad goals for planning and development in the state. These goals address compact growth, a strong and diverse economy, educational and vocational opportunities, diversified and sustainable transportation systems, protection of historical and natural features, efficient and renewable energy usage, recreational opportunities, agriculture and forestry industries, natural resources, housing, and public facilities and services.

**24. Integrating Land Use, Transportation, and Economic Development in Pennsylvania (2010). NADO Research Foundation.**

<http://www.ruraltransportation.org/uploads/nadoluted.pdf>

This report outlines the presentations and comments given at the Peer Exchange hosted by the NADO Research Foundation Center for Transportation Advancement and Regional Development and the Federal Highway Administration in April 2010. The Exchange provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the Land Use, Transportation, and Economic Development (LUTED) effort that has been undertaken statewide to develop regional visions and strategies that identify projects involving multiple issue areas.

The LUTED initiative and State Interagency Team were developed as a result of participation in the National Governors Association Policy Academy. The aim of LUTED was to better coordinate planning efforts across all levels of government. A Statewide Action Plan was created and the LUTED process was initiated and implemented in 10 planning areas covering the state.

**25. Iowa Code Chapter 28H: Councils of Governments. State of Iowa.**

<http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/coolice/default.asp?category=billinfo&service=iowacode&ga=83&input=28H>

Chapter 28H identifies 17 Councils of Government (COGs) and outlines the duties and membership responsibilities of the COGs.

**26. Land Use Planning and Management in Iowa (1977). State of Iowa Office for Planning and Programming.**

The State and Community Services Section of the former Iowa Office for Planning and Programming prepared this report as part of a series on land use planning and management in the state. The purpose of this report is to “summarize the activities of all state agencies, commissions, boards and committees with respect to land use management”. The report concludes that “it is important that the state [all agencies] develop a greater sensitivity to their individual and collective impacts on Iowa’s land and water resources” and that “it is

crucial that steps be taken to assure that coordinated land use policies for federal, state and local agencies are developed and implemented.”

**27. Milestone Report #3: Goals, Strategies and a Plan for Action -Year 2030 Regional Comprehensive Plan (April 25, 2008). East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.**

<http://www.eastcentralrpc.org/planning/compplan/milestone3/MS3Final/ms3final.htm>

The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has created this regional plan with the support of a \$175,000 state planning grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration's Office of Land Information Services (OLIS). The plan provides information on the current state of the region, planning process, public input process, issues and opportunities, and a regional vision. In addition, the plan details goals, strategies and a plan for action for economic development, housing, transportation, community and public facilities, agricultural resources, natural resources, cultural resources and land use, as well as including a Plan for Implementation.

**28. Regional Planning in America: Updating Earlier Visions (November 2000). Seltzer, E. *Land Lines*: Volume 12, Number 6. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.**

[http://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/274\\_Regional-Planning-in-America--Updating-Earlier-Visions](http://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/274_Regional-Planning-in-America--Updating-Earlier-Visions)

The article summarizes the roundtable discussions held at the American Planning Association conference in New York in April 1999. The roundtable began with a screening of the 1938 film “The City” and discussions focused on regions as networks, what the role of a regional planning entity should be, encouraging the regional mindset, and themes for future action.

**29. Shaping Our Future in the 21st Century: FAQs (February 2007). East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.**

<http://www.eastcentralrpc.org/planning/compplan/FAQ.htm>

This website succinctly answers standard questions posed by local governments regarding Wisconsin planning law. Topics covered include:

- Origin and impacts of Wisconsin Planning Law
- Requirements for local planning and benefits to planning
- Technical aspects of planning versus zoning, components of a plan, and the planning process

**30. The Promise of Wisconsin's 1999 Comprehensive Planning Law: Land Use Policy Reforms to Support Active Living (2208) . Schilling, J & Keyes, S. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*: Volume 33, Number 3. Duke University Press.**

<http://jhppl.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/33/3/455>

Schilling and Keyes explore “the competing interests and underlying political forces behind the design and passage of Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law.” The article specifically focuses on smart growth and active-living with references to the nation's obesity problem. The authors observe that “compared with other state enabling acts, Wisconsin's planning law sets forth a comprehensive framework of carrots and sticks to encourage good planning and hence better land use policy.”

**31. Iowa Association of Regional Councils.** <http://www.iarcog.com/>

The Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC) is the statewide association for Iowa's Councils of Governments (COGs), and was incorporated in the State of Iowa in February 1988. IARC is a non-profit organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. There are 18 member organizations in IARC. Each executive director of the member organizations serves on the IARC Board of Directors which meets monthly in Des Moines.

**32. Wisconsin Code Chapter 66, Section 1001, Sub-section 5: Applicability of a Regional Planning Commission's Plan. State of Wisconsin.**  
<http://www.doa.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=5436>

This subsection states that: A regional planning commission's comprehensive plan is only advisory in its applicability to a political subdivision and a political subdivision's comprehensive plan."

**33. 2030 Regional Development Framework (2006). Twin Cities Metropolitan Council.**  
<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/framework/Framework.pdf>

The purpose of this *2030 Regional Development Framework* is to provide a plan for how the Metropolitan Council and its regional partners can address regional planning challenges. The Development Framework is the initial "chapter" and the unifying theme of the Council's Metropolitan Development Guide. It is the umbrella statement of regional policies, goals and strategies that will inform the Council's metropolitan system plans for airports, transportation, regional parks and wastewater service, as well as other policy plans adopted by the Council. The Framework addresses regional opportunities and challenges, policy directions and strategies, strategies for geographic planning areas, and implementation.

**34. Vermont Code Title 24, Chapter 117, Section 4306: Municipal and Regional Planning Fund. State of Vermont.**  
<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullsection.cfm?Title=24&Chapter=117&Section=04306>

Chapter 117, Section 4306 of the Vermont Statutes describes the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund. The fund is comprised of 17% of the revenue from the property transfer tax. All balances at the end of the fiscal year and all interest is kept in the fund. The fund is allocated as follows:

- 10% to Vermont Center for Geographic Information
- 70% to Regional Planning Commissions (based on formula allocation) to provide planning services
- 20% to municipalities for planning (competitive)

**35. Connecticut Statutes Chapter 4, Section 124q: Regional Planning Grant-in-Aid. State of Connecticut.**  
[http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2985&q=383160&opmNav\\_GID=1807](http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2985&q=383160&opmNav_GID=1807)

This program provides grants to support planning activities by the 15 Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs) in Connecticut. Each RPO receives a base grant of \$53,000 funded 100% by the General Fund.

**36. Integrating Hazard Assessment into Comprehensive Planning (August 2010). Iowa Smart Planning Task Force- Comprehensive Planning Committee.**

[http://rio.iowa.gov/smart\\_planning/assets/2010-08-11\\_Hazard\\_Elements\\_Report.pdf](http://rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/assets/2010-08-11_Hazard_Elements_Report.pdf)

This report was prepared by the Comprehensive Planning Committee of the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force as a direct response to the legislative charge of the Task Force to “Review municipal comprehensive plans to determine the number of such plans that address the hazards identified in section 18B.2 subsection 2, paragraph k (“Hazards Elements”, and the adequacy of such plans in addressing those hazards.” To conduct an evaluation of the adequacy of plans to address the “Hazards Elements” section of the legislative guide, a sample (based on population tiers) of nine cities and 3 counties was evaluated. The evaluation showed that:

- Six of the nine cities sampled has an approved FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan or is part of the county’s plan. Only one of the counties sampled has an approved plan while a second county is in the process of updating their expired plan.
- None of the sampled comprehensive plans contained a Hazard Mitigation or Hazards Assessment section, although many of the plans referenced considering certain hazards in the planning process. These references were mostly concerning flood plains and flood damage mitigation.
- Half of the plans sampled contained a section specifically on flood plain management with regard to land use. These sections came in the form of both text and maps.

**37. Have State Comprehensive Planning Mandates Reduced Insured Losses from Natural Disasters? (2005). Burby, R. *Natural Hazards Review: Volume 6, Issue 2.***

<http://cedb.asce.org/cgi/WWWdisplay.cgi?146592>

This article examines the relationship between state requirements for preparation of local government comprehensive plans and claims paid by property insurance companies for losses due to weather-related natural disasters between 1994 and 2000. Although a majority of states do not require local governments to prepare comprehensive plans, 24 states do require plans, and 10 states specifically require that mandated plans pay attention to natural hazards. Multivariate analyses indicate that insured losses to residential property over the period studied could have been reduced by 0.52% if all states had required local comprehensive plans and by a further 0.47% if, in addition, they had required consideration of natural hazards in local plans. Over the period studied, if all states had required comprehensive plans with hazard mitigation elements, the toll in insured losses to residential property from natural disasters would have been reduced by approximately \$213 million in constant 2000 dollars ( $\pm$ \$98 million at the 95% level of confidence).

**38. Vermont Statutes Title 24, Chapter 117, Section 4350: Review and Consultation Regarding Municipal Planning Efforts. State of Vermont.**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullsection.cfm?Title=24&Chapter=117&Section=04350>

Chapter 117, Section 4350 of the Vermont Statutes describes the role of the Regional Planning Commissions as reviewer and consultant of municipal comprehensive plans. More specifically, the RPC must:

- Consult with municipalities to determine needs as individual municipalities and as neighbors in a region in regards to planning and provide assistance.
- Review and approve local plans when requested by the municipality based on state guidance.
- File any adopted plan or amendment with the Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development.

This section also states that a municipality with a “confirmed planning process”:

- Does not have to have their plan reviewed by the Commissioner of the Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development;
- May levy impact fees on new development; and
- May be eligible to receive additional funds.

**39. Wisconsin Statute Chapter 16, Section 965: Planning Grants to Local Government Units. State of Wisconsin.** <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/statutes/Stat0016.pdf>

Section 16.965 gives the Department of Administration authority to “provide grants to local government units to be used to finance the cost of planning activities, including contracting for planning consultant services, public planning sessions and other planning outreach and educational activities, or for the purchase of computerized planning data, planning software or the hardware required to utilize that data or software.”

Subsection 4 gives award preference to local governments that engage in planning efforts that:

- address overlapping or neighboring jurisdiction collaboration;
- address 14 smart growth goals identified in the section;
- identify smart growth areas; and
- emphasize public participation, among other criteria.

**40. Wisconsin Statute Chapter 66, Section 0617: Impact Fees. State of Wisconsin.** <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/statutes/Stat0066.pdf>

Section 66.0617 defines impact fees as “cash contributions, contributions of land or interests in land or any other items of value that are imposed on a developer by a municipality.” This section gives municipalities the authority to “enact an ordinance to impose impact fees on developers to pay for the capital costs that are necessary to accommodate land development.” Revenues must be kept in a separate account and may only be expended for the particular capital cost for which the fee was imposed. This section requires that a Public Facilities Needs Assessment be completed before enactment of an impact fee ordinance, and also allows for an exemption for low-income housing.

**41. Washington Code 82.02.060: Impact Fees. State of Washington.** <http://www.mrsc.org/mc/rcw/RCW%20%2082%20%20TITLE/RCW%20%2082%20.%2002%20%20CHAPTER/RCW%20%2082%20.%2002%20.060.htm>

Chapter 82 outlines the provisions required in a local ordinance to assess impact fees. These provisions include, among others:

- A schedule of fees
- A credit for developer improvements
- A process for adjustments based on unusual circumstances or developer study

The ordinance may also include an exemption for low-income housing or other public purpose developments.

**42. Utah Code Title 11, Chapter 36: Impact Fees. State of Utah.**

[http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE11/11\\_36.htm](http://le.utah.gov/~code/TITLE11/11_36.htm)

Chapter 36 details the authority of communities to assess impact fees and the process for expending the revenue. Impact fee is defined here as “a payment of money imposed upon new development activity as a condition of development approval to mitigate the impact of the new development on public facilities.” Communities must have a Capital Facilities Plan before imposing impact fees. Impact fees may only be expended on system improvements identified in the Capital Facilities Plan.

**43. Indiana Code Title 36, Article 7, Chapter 4, Section 1300: Impact Fees. State of Indiana.** <http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/2010/title36/ar7/ch4.html>

Section 1300 outlines the statutes applicable to a community’s ability to assess impact fees. Impact fee is defined as “a monetary charge imposed on new development by a unity to defray or mitigate the capital costs of infrastructure that is required by, necessitated by, or needed to serve the new development.”

**44. New Energy Use Tax Allows City to Increase General Fund Expenditures (June 13, 2010). *Standard Examiner*.** <http://www.standard.net/topics/energy/2010/06/13/new-energy-use-tax-allows-city-increase-general-fund-expenditures>

In March 2010, the city council of Woods Cross, UT passed the energy use tax to add an additional \$400,000 to the general fund for the 2011 budget. Woods Cross was one of only two cities in Davis County not imposing the tax.

**45. Climate Action Plan Tax (2006). City of Boulder.**

[http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=7698&Itemid=2844](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7698&Itemid=2844)

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) tax was passed in November 2006. The tax is levied on residents and businesses based on electricity usage (kWh) and provides funding for programs to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Wind energy is not taxed. Programs funded include energy audits for homes and businesses, rebates and financing assistance for energy efficiency improvements and solar installations, and bus pass subsidies.

**46. New Hampshire Statute Chapter 83-E: Electricity Consumption Tax. State of New Hampshire.** <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/RSA/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-V-83-E.htm>



Chapter 38 details the imposition and collection of the electricity consumption tax in New Hampshire. The tax is imposed at the rate of \$0.00055 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), is collected by the provider, and is remitted monthly to the state.

**47. Capital Improvement Program: Capital Project Evaluation Criteria. Baltimore County, MD.** [http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/public\\_facilities\\_planning/cip.html](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/public_facilities_planning/cip.html)

The Capital Improvement Program for Baltimore County “plans for the construction and maintenance of the County’s water, sewer and storm drain improvements, roads, bridges, refuse disposal facilities, government buildings, parks, schools and watershed restoration.” Capital project requests are evaluated based on a set of criteria that includes but is not limited to:

- Does the project fit within the guidelines of the State’s Smart Growth Initiative?
- Does the project fit within the guidelines of the Baltimore County Master Plan?
- Does the project serve to protect or enhance the environment?
- Does the project enhance or strengthen communities and neighborhoods?

**48. Smart Growth Redevelopment Funding. State of New Jersey.** [http://www.state.nj.us/njbusiness/financing/enviromental/smart\\_growth.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/njbusiness/financing/enviromental/smart_growth.shtml)

The Smart Growth Redevelopment Fund is administered by New Jersey’s Economic Development Authority (EDA). The fund provides loans and guarantees up to \$1 million for non contamination-related site preparation costs (e.g. land assemblage) as well as low-interest financing for infrastructure improvements. New Jersey also offers funding through the Urban Fund to stimulate investment in its urban communities by providing financial and technical tools needed to grow and revitalize neighborhoods.

**49. Iowa Code Chapter 38- Iowa IJobs II Program.** [http://ijobsiowa.gov/documents/filelibrary/Rules\\_6910\\_210D0C4AE4AEE.pdf](http://ijobsiowa.gov/documents/filelibrary/Rules_6910_210D0C4AE4AEE.pdf)

The administrative rules of the IJobs II grant program require that applicant communities have adopted a comprehensive plan that applies smart planning principles, are in the process of updating an existing plan to incorporate smart planning principles, or have committed to adopting a comprehensive plan that applies the smart planning principles within three years; additionally, the comprehensive plans need to have followed the state guidance for local comprehensive planning.

**50. Governor Rell's Executive Order #15: Section 2, Paragraph G and H (October 2006). Office of the Governor.** <http://www.ct.gov/governorrell/cwp/view.asp?a=1719&Q=320908>

Executive Order No. 15 states that the Connecticut Office of Responsible Growth is responsible for “reviewing all state funding that has an impact on the growth and development of Connecticut and establishing criteria that will target funds for uses that are consistent with goals that emerge for responsible growth,” and “targeting economic incentives to support development in designated Responsible Growth areas.”

**51. Institute for Local Government.** <http://www.ca-ilg.org/>

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) is the research and education partnership of the California State Association of Counties and the League of California Cities. The ILG offers five programs that focus on Ethics, Intergovernmental Conflict Resolution, Local Government 101, Public Engagement and Collaborative Governance, and Sustainable Communities.

**52. Local Government Institute of Wisconsin.** <http://www.localgovinstitute.org/>

The LGI is a non-profit partnership created in October 2007 for the purposes of research, collaboration, and education. The LGI was founded by the Wisconsin Counties Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, and the Wisconsin Towns Association. The LGI is funded by the founding partners and research contracts.

**53. Municipal Research and Services Center for Washington.** <http://www.mrsc.org/>

The MRSC is a non-profit based in Seattle whose mission is to promote excellence in local government. Services offered include professional consultation, research and information services. All information and research is available free of charge to elected officials, government staff, and public hospitals.

**54. Louisiana Land Use Toolkit.** <http://landusetoolkit.com>

The Louisiana Land Use Toolkit is supported by the Louisiana Department of Development and the Center of Planning Excellence. The toolkit offers a model development code that integrates smart growth principles. This code can be tailored by local governments and used to guide future development.

**55. Green and Growing: Tools for Responsible Growth. State of Connecticut.**  
<http://www.dir.ct.gov/opm/IGP/Tools/index.asp>

Green and Growing is the State of Connecticut's toolbox for policies, plans and programs administered by state agencies represented on the Interagency Responsible Growth Steering Council. Tools are searchable by keyword or by relevance to the role of the audience (e.g. municipal, developer, farmer, etc.). Tools include grants, loans, tax credits and technical assistance, among others.

**56. Florida Planning Toolbox.** <http://www.cues.fau.edu/toolbox/>

The Florida Planning Toolbox was made possible by a grant from the [Florida Department of Community Affairs](#) to further regional visioning initiatives in Florida by providing descriptions and examples of planning tools designed to protect and enhance natural resources, promote economic prosperity for all residents, and enable a sustainable quality of life. The toolbox is housed at the Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions (CUES) at Florida Atlantic University.

**57. Water Resources and Land Use Planning: Watershed-based Strategies for Amador and Calaveras Counties (2008). Local Government Commission.**  
<http://water.lgc.org/amador-calaveras/amador-cc%20watershed%20plan%202.pdf>



The Watershed-based Strategies for Amador and Calaveras Counties was developed by the Local Government Commission and a Stakeholder Advisory Committee with funding from the California State Water Resources Control Board. The plan contains sections on area issues, open space and infrastructure, sustainable water and watershed management, and water quality monitoring guidelines.

The plan also provides a section on Community Planning and Design which recommends “town-centered development with a greater mix of land uses and housing types, connected by safe and walk able streets.” This section includes specific strategies focused on strategic location, compact design, mixed use development, and transportation networks and street design. The Community Planning and Design section also gives information on the effects of land use patterns on the watershed and provides specific recommendations for municipalities within the watershed.

**58. Keuka Lake Watershed Land Use Planning Guide- An Intermunicipal Action Strategy (2009). Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.**

<http://www.gflrpc.org/Publications/Keuka/Plan/Guide/LandUseGuide.pdf>

This document was developed to provide the municipalities in the watershed a resource for land use-watershed planning. The guide provides a profile on the watershed, current conditions of the watershed, a watershed vision as well as watershed goals and objectives, potential strategies, and an implementation strategy and update process. The plan has a specific goal titled “Sustainable Development” with 10 action steps including:

- Revise local codes to encourage the use of “Green Building” techniques.
- Include environmental considerations as a component of subdivision and site plan approvals.
- Promote sustainable agriculture.

**59. Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan- Land Use and Land Management Recommendations (2005). Clallam County, WA.**

[http://www.clallam.net/environment/html/wria\\_18\\_draft\\_watershed\\_plan.htm](http://www.clallam.net/environment/html/wria_18_draft_watershed_plan.htm)

The Elwha-Dungeness Watershed Plan was developed by the member governments of the Water Resource Inventory Area 18 (WRIA 18) in Washington. The primary goals of the plan are to assess the status of water resources and address issues relating to water quantity, water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, instream flows and water storage. The plan contains a section on Land Use and Land Management Recommendations for each participating government. These recommendations cover:

- Land Conversions
- Development in Sensitive Areas
- Interaction between Septic and Wellhead Zones of Control
- Watershed Boundaries
- Water Conservation in Land Development
- Forest Lands Management

**60. Watershed Based Plans and Watershed Management Plans. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.**

[http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=335504&depNav\\_GID=1654](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=335504&depNav_GID=1654)

The goal of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Management Program is "to assist in the development of comprehensive watershed management plans, to protect and restore water quality, and conserve and manage water resources, by guiding local land use decision making, and enhancing pollution prevention programs." The website provides a list of completed and approved plans, examples of watershed plans, and resources on water management.

**61. Approved Watershed Plans. Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.**

[http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313\\_3682\\_3714\\_4012-95955--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3714_4012-95955--,00.html)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides a map and copies of approved watershed plans in the state. The Department state that a "Watershed Management Plan considers all uses, pollutant sources, and impacts within a drainage area." Over 150 local watershed plans have been developed utilizing Department of Environmental Quality grants. Funding for implementation of plans is available from federal sources and the Clean Michigan Initiative.

**62. Kentucky Wet Growth Tools for Sustainable Development: A Handbook on Land Use and Water (2009). University of Louisville.**

<http://louisville.edu/landuse/healthy-watersheds-land-use-initiative.html>

This handbook is designed to be a general overview of the many tools available to accomplish wet growth policy goals. "Wet growth" refers to a wide range of growth management and land use policies that give high priority to water quality, water conservation, and overall watershed health.

**63. Protecting Water Resources with Smart Growth (2004). United States Environmental Protection Agency.**

<http://louisville.edu/landuse/healthy-watersheds-land-use-initiative.html>

This publication is intended for audiences who seek specific ideas on how techniques for smarter growth can be used to protect water resources. Smart growth principles provide a foundation for the 75 policies described in this report. The majority of these policies (46) are oriented to the watershed, or regional level; the other 29 are targeted at the level of specific development sites.

**64. Iowa Code Chapter 354: Platting- Division and Subdivision of Land.**

<http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&service=iowaCode>

This chapter provides for "a balance between the review and regulation authority of governmental agencies concerning the division and subdivision of land and the rights of landowners". Language involving comprehensive plans can be specifically found in section 354.1, subsection 4 and section 354.8.

**65. Iowa Code Chapter 368: City Development.** <http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&service=iowaCode>

This chapter concerns city development including annexation and municipal services. Language involving comprehensive plans can be found throughout several sections of this chapter.

**66. Iowa Code Chapter 403: Urban Renewal.** <http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&service=iowaCode>

This chapter provides for identification of urban renewal areas by cities and creation of urban renewal programs and plans. The term “general plan” is used throughout the chapter to mean “comprehensive plan”.

**Appendix B: Draft Recommendations for Public Comment – Approved September 15, 2010**

The following draft recommendations, along with greater explanation, were approved by the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force on September 15, 2010. These recommendations were presented at public input meetings and were the basis for soliciting public comment. The full document outlining these recommendations can be provided by request.

<b>DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
<b>1. Establish a framework to coordinate planning, geographic information and data systems, and state-level investment.</b>
1.1. Establish the GIS & Data Systems and Planning Coordination Councils, and the Office of Planning and Geographic Information Systems (OPGIS).
1.2. Integrate the Smart Planning Principles into the State’s Enterprise Strategic Planning Process.
1.3. Iowa Councils of Government (COGs) should serve as the geographic entities for regional smart plans.
1.4. A Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) for each region should be established by the COGs for local smart plan review.
1.5. A COG or COGs should be established in central Iowa for the seven counties (Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, and Warren Counties) not currently served or served in-part by an existing COG by June 30, 2015.
1.6. Identify “State of Iowa Smart Planning Goals and Benchmarks” as statewide goals for the OPGIS.
<b>2. Require completion of regional comprehensive smart plans within 5 years after legislation is enacted.</b>
<b>3. Create financial incentives and offer technical assistance to incent smart planning at both the regional and local levels.</b>
3.1. Create a sustainable funding source for regional smart planning conducted by the COGs.
3.2. Create a sustainable funding source for a smart planning grant program at the state level for local smart plan development and implementation.
3.3. Expand the menu of financing options available to local governments to develop and implement smart plans.
3.4. Provide training and technical assistance to state agencies to facilitate integration of the Smart Planning Principles into state investment decision-making processes,

particularly grant programs.
3.5. State agencies should set a threshold of or give additional consideration for having a qualified smart plan to receive state funding for infrastructure and public facilities projects that affect land use, transportation, stormwater management, and floodplain protection, where appropriate.
3.6. Create a smart planning education program for local government staff, officials, and the public.
3.7. Develop a smart planning toolbox to be housed at OPGIS that will serve as a one-stop-shop for smart planning information and resources.
3.8. Develop an accessible statewide GIS and data management system.
<b>4. Develop a watershed planning and coordination program, including goals and strategies referencing land use for each of Iowa's nine major river basins.</b>
<b>5. Make the definition of "local comprehensive plan" uniform throughout the Iowa Code.</b>

## Appendix C: Public Comments, Survey Results, & Analysis

The Iowa Smart Planning Task Force membership placed a high priority on soliciting and meaningfully considering public input concerning the development and refinement of the recommendations included in this report. Given the time constraints of addressing each of the directives outlined in SF 2389 by November 15, 2010, the Task Force believes the public input process employed provided adequate notice and allowed for multiple opportunities for interested persons and organizations to provide input into the process. That process is outlined in this report on page X. Information below provides a brief outline of the common themes and remaining concerns identified through the public input process, followed by the survey results and raw comments and letters submitted.

### Analysis of Public Input

The following bullet points were identified by Task Force leadership and presented to the Task Force on October 20, 2010, as the items articulated in the draft recommendations approved by the Task Force on September 15, 2010, that appeared to be well received by the public and interested organizations:

#### Areas of Agreement:

- 1) Smart Planning concepts are generally supported, producing tangible benefits to communities and the state.
- 2) The Smart Planning framework should remain flexible and locally-driven.
- 3) Watershed planning is a critical component.
- 4) Education is essential.
- 5) Inclusiveness of stakeholders is necessary.
- 6) Costs should be shared across all levels of government.
- 7) Streamlined access to GIS data is needed.

The following bullet points were identified by Task Force leadership and presented to the Task Force on October 20, 2010, as the items articulated in the draft recommendations approved by

the Task Force on September 15, 2010, that appeared to need further refinement and clarification based on the input received by the public and interested organizations.

**Remaining Questions & Concerns:**

- 1) Planning & GIS Office Structure
  - 1) Independent planning office versus incorporated within an existing agency
  - 2) Need to reconcile governance issues with two boards
  - 3) Board membership may be too large
- 2) Regional Planning
  - 1) Concern regarding capacity of COGs to undertake regional planning
  - 2) Planning Advisory Committees – need greater clarification of role; committee membership concerns
  - 3) Regional planning concerns with border states
  - 4) Options for regional planning administration in Central Iowa
- 3) Funding
  - 1) Greater support for “additional consideration” versus threshold requirement for competitive state grants
  - 2) Adequate funding is necessary for success
  - 3) Prefer no new taxes, fees, or additional government layers
  - 4) Are incentives a de facto mandate?
  - 5) Would like to see quantified costs and benefits
- 4) GIS
  - 1) Need to address funding and security issues pertaining to GIS data

The Task Force considered the areas of agreement and the remaining questions and concerns while refining the draft recommendations during the October 20, 2010, meeting. The public input process significantly improved the final recommendation included in this report.

**[INSERT: SURVEY RESULTS , COMMENTS, AND LETTERS]**

## **Appendix D: Committee Membership & Consultation**

**Committee Name: Intergovernmental Coordination and Information Sharing**

**Co-Chairs:** Emily Sheilds  
Don Temeyer

**Scope of Committee Work:**

1. Evaluate state policies, programs, statutes, and rules to determine whether they should be revised to integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles.
2. Develop a set of recommendations that is consistent with the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and does all of the following:
  - a. Coordinates, facilitates, and centralizes the exchange of information related to state and local planning, zoning, and development between state agencies and the General Assembly.
  - b. Coordinates discussions concerning a proposed geographic information system between the producers and the users of such systems.
  - c. Allows the efficient production and dissemination of population and other demographic statistical forecasts.
  - d. Creates a centralized storage location for all comprehensive plans.

- e. Facilitates the cooperation of state and local governments with comprehensive planning, educational, and research programs.
- f. Provides and administers technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning.
- g. Provides information to local governments related to state, federal, and other resources for comprehensive planning.

### Committee Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Heather Hackbarth	IDOM	<a href="mailto:Heather.Hackbarth@iowa.gov">Heather.Hackbarth@iowa.gov</a>	515-281-7811
Darrell Hanson For Rob Berntsen	Dept of Commerce	<a href="mailto:Darrell.Hanson@iub.state.ia.us">Darrell.Hanson@iub.state.ia.us</a>	515 281-5168
LaDene Bowen	UNI	<a href="mailto:ladene.bowen@uni.edu">ladene.bowen@uni.edu</a>	319-273-2969
Bill Ehm	DNR	<a href="mailto:William.Ehm@dnr.iowa.gov">William.Ehm@dnr.iowa.gov</a>	515-281-4701
Emily Shields, Chair	RIO	<a href="mailto:Emily.Shields@rio.iowa.gov">Emily.Shields@rio.iowa.gov</a>	515-321-6024
David Johnston	DOD	<a href="mailto:david.johnston@iowa.gov">david.johnston@iowa.gov</a>	515-725-3231
Jeff Kolb	Gov. Appointee	<a href="mailto:jeffkolb@butler-bremer.com">jeffkolb@butler-bremer.com</a>	319-326-2558
Nancy Richardson	IDOT	<a href="mailto:Nancy.Richardson@dot.iowa.gov">Nancy.Richardson@dot.iowa.gov</a>	515-239-1111
Nick Wagner	Legislator	<a href="mailto:nick.wagner@legis.state.ia.us">nick.wagner@legis.state.ia.us</a>	
Joan Conrad	IUB	<a href="mailto:Joan.conrad@iowa.gov">Joan.conrad@iowa.gov</a>	515-281-4874
Don Temeyer, Chair	H.R. Green	<a href="mailto:dtemeyer@hrgreen.com">dtemeyer@hrgreen.com</a>	319-269-3281
Bruce Greiner	OEI	<a href="mailto:Bruce.greiner@iowa.gov">Bruce.greiner@iowa.gov</a>	515-725-2085
Pam Jochum	Legislator	<a href="mailto:Pam.jochum@legis.state.ia.us">Pam.jochum@legis.state.ia.us</a>	515-281-3371
Joe Mowers	IWD	<a href="mailto:Joe.mowers@iwd.iowa.gov">Joe.mowers@iwd.iowa.gov</a>	515-281-8105
Machelle Shaffer	IDA	<a href="mailto:Machelle.shaffer@iowa.gov">Machelle.shaffer@iowa.gov</a>	515-725-3312
Ken Sharp	DPH	<a href="mailto:ksharp@idph.state.ia.us">ksharp@idph.state.ia.us</a>	515-281-5099
Dan Smith	School Administrators of Iowa	<a href="mailto:dsmith@sai-iowa.org">dsmith@sai-iowa.org</a>	

### Staff Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Aaron Todd	RIO	<a href="mailto:aaron.todd@rio.iowa.gov">aaron.todd@rio.iowa.gov</a>	515-242-5299
Heather Hackbarth	DOM	<a href="mailto:Heather.hackbarth@iowa.gov">Heather.hackbarth@iowa.gov</a>	515-281-7811
Susan Judkins Josten	RIO	<a href="mailto:Susan.judkins@rio.iowa.gov">Susan.judkins@rio.iowa.gov</a>	515-729-2837
Annette Mansheim	RIO	<a href="mailto:Annette.mansheim@rio.iowa.gov">Annette.mansheim@rio.iowa.gov</a>	515-242-5544

### Experts, Interest Groups and Advisors

#### Land Use

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Marie Steenlage	Iowa Department of Economic Development
LaVon Griffieon	1000 Friends of Iowa

Dennis Plautz	City of Fort Dodge and City Development Board
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### ***Agricultural and Environmental***

Name	Organization
Amy Bouska	Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
Bill Ehm	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Duane Sand	Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Kirk Siegle	Farmer, SE Iowa

### ***Urban and Regional Planning***

Name	Organization
Kevin Blanshan	INRCOG
Dan Schlichtmann	INRCOG
Gary Taylor	ISU Extension
Ron Gaines	City of Cedar Falls
Brian W. Ohm	Department of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin-Madison
LaDene Bowen	Institute for Decision Making, UNI
Jerry Anthony	Department of Urban and Regional Planning, U of I
Nathan Young	Iowa Flood Center

### ***Local/State Government***

Name	Organization
Marie Steenlage	Iowa Department of Economic Development
Stuart Anderson	Iowa Department of Transportation
Mary Beth Mellick	Iowa State Association of Counties
Cindy Axne	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Joseph Cassis	Iowa Communications Network
Joan Conrad	Iowa Utilities Board
Ruth Randleman	Mayor of Carlisle and Task Force Co-Chair
Les Beck	Linn County Planning Director
Francis Boggus	Great Places/Department of Cultural Affairs
Linda Howard	Great Places/Department of Cultural Affairs
Witold Krajewski	Iowa Flood Center
Linda Leto	Department of Management
Heather Nelson	Department of Management
Diane Foss	Iowa Department of Economic Development
Robert Grayson	Office of Energy Independence
Wayne Chizek	Marshall County GIS Coordinator

### ***Built Environment***

Name	Organization
Stuart Anderson	Iowa Department of Transportation
Joan Conrad	Iowa Utilities Board
Eric Abrams	Department of Transportation



Mickey Carlson	TownCraft/Iowa Finance Authority
Keith Denner	PPM

### **Legislative**

Name	Organization
Bill Freeland	Iowa House Democrats
Debra Kozel	Legislative Services Agency
Jace Mikels	Iowa Senate Democrats
Jason Chapman	Iowa House Republicans
Marcia Tannian	Legislative Services Agency
Theresa Kehoe	Iowa Senate Democrats

### **Committee Name: Comprehensive Planning Committee**

**Co-Chairs:** Les Beck

Rick Hunsaker

### **Scope of committee work:**

1. Develop statewide goals for comprehensive planning that utilize the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and develop recommendations for a process to measure progress toward achieving those goals.
2. Review city and county comprehensive plans to determine the number of such plans that address the hazards as listed in the Hazards Element of the suggested local comprehensive plan guidelines and the adequacy of such plans in addressing those hazards.
3. Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.
4. Recommend the means by which technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning can be provided and administered.
5. Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.
6. Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.
7. Recommend the means by which technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning can be provided and administered.

### **Committee Members**

Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Les Beck	ISAC	<a href="mailto:les.beck@linncounty.org">les.beck@linncounty.org</a>	319-892-5151
Rick Hunsaker	IARC	<a href="mailto:rhunsaker@region12cog.org">rhunsaker@region12cog.org</a>	712-792-9914
Bret Mills	IDED	<a href="mailto:bret.mills@iowa.gov">bret.mills@iowa.gov</a>	515-725-3021
Carey Nagle	AIA	<a href="mailto:cnagle@bnim.com">cnagle@bnim.com</a>	515-974-6462
Chad Keune	ACB/Ruhl & Ruhl	<a href="mailto:chad@acbiowa.com">chad@acbiowa.com</a>	319-594-2997
Charles Connerly	University of Iowa	<a href="mailto:Charles-connerly@uiowa.edu">Charles-connerly@uiowa.edu</a>	319-335-0032
David Wilwerding	APA-Iowa	<a href="mailto:dwilwerding@ci.johnston.ia.us">dwilwerding@ci.johnston.ia.us</a>	515-727-7765
Gary Taylor	ISU Extension	<a href="mailto:gtaylor@iastate.edu">gtaylor@iastate.edu</a>	515-290-0214
Jessica Harder	Iowa League of Cities	<a href="mailto:jessicaharder@iowaleague.org">jessicaharder@iowaleague.org</a>	515-974-5312



Pamela Myhre	City of Mason City	<a href="mailto:pmyhre@masoncity.net">pmyhre@masoncity.net</a>	641-421-3626
Paula Mohr	DCA	<a href="mailto:paula.mohr@iowa.gov">paula.mohr@iowa.gov</a>	515-281-6828
Tom Schueller	Legislator	<a href="mailto:tom.schueller@legis.state.ia.us">tom.schueller@legis.state.ia.us</a>	515-281-3221
Rob Smith	AIA	<a href="mailto:rsmith@smithmetzger.com">rsmith@smithmetzger.com</a>	515-244-2111
Stuart Crine	DPS	<a href="mailto:crine@dps.state.ia.us">crine@dps.state.ia.us</a>	515-725-6170
Teri Goodman	City of Dubuque	<a href="mailto:tgoodman@cityofdubuque.org">tgoodman@cityofdubuque.org</a>	563-589-4110
Wayne Peterson	IDALS	<a href="mailto:wayne.petersen@iowaagriculture.gov">wayne.petersen@iowaagriculture.gov</a>	515-281-5833

### **Staff Members**

Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Aaron Todd	RIO	<a href="mailto:aaron.todd@rio.iowa.gov">aaron.todd@rio.iowa.gov</a>	515-242-5299
Annette Mansheim	RIO	<a href="mailto:Annette.mansheim@rio.iowa.gov">Annette.mansheim@rio.iowa.gov</a>	515-242-5544
Jenna Anderson	RIO	<a href="mailto:jenna.anderson@rio.iowa.gov">jenna.anderson@rio.iowa.gov</a>	515-250-2017
Liz Van Zomeren	RIO	<a href="mailto:liz.vanzomeren@rio.iowa.gov">liz.vanzomeren@rio.iowa.gov</a>	515-242-5254
Nichole Warren	IARC	<a href="mailto:iarcdirector@live.com">iarcdirector@live.com</a>	515-554-3210

### **Experts, Interest Groups and Advisors**

#### ***Land Use***

Name	Organization
Chad Keune	ACB/ Ruhl & Ruhl
Charles Connerly	University of Iowa
Jerry Anthony	University of Iowa
John McCurdy	Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO)
Les Beck	Iowa Association of Regional Councils

#### ***Agricultural and Environmental***

Name	Organization
Gerry Schnepf	Keep Iowa Beautiful
Wayne Petersen	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS)

#### ***Urban and Regional Planning***

Name	Organization
Brian Ohm	University of Wisconsin- Madison
Brian Schoon	Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG)
David Wilwerding	American Planning Association
Gary Taylor	Iowa State University (ISU) Extension
Jeff Hanan	Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Council (SEIRPC)
Mary Beth Mellick	Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC)
Mary Rump	East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG)
Michele Warren	Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC)
Mickey Carlson	Iowa State University Town/Craft
Pamela Myhre	City of Mason City
Rick Hunsaker	Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC)

Shirley Helgevold	Mid-Iowa Development Association (MIDAS)
Stuart Meck	Rutgers University

### ***Local/State Government***

Name	Organization
Bret Mills	Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED)
Jessica Harder	Iowa League of Cities
Marie Steenlage	Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED)
Ruth Randleman	City of Carlisle
Teri Goodmann	City of Dubuque

### ***Built Environment***

Name	Organization
Carey Nagle	American Institute of Architects
Paula Mohr	Department of Cultural Affairs
Rob Smith	American Institute of Architects
Stuart Crine	Department of Public Safety (DPS)

### ***Legislative***

Name	Organization
Bill Freeland	Iowa House Democrats
Debra Kozel	Legislative Services Agency (LSA)
Jace Mikels	Iowa Senate Democrats
Jason Chapman	Iowa House Republicans
Marcia Tannian	Legislative Services Agency (LSA)
Rep. Donovan Olson	State Representative, Democrat
Rep. Tom Schueller	State Representative, Democrat
Theresa Kehoe	Iowa Senate Democrats

## **Appendix E. Integrating Hazards Assessment into Comprehensive Planning**

### **Integrating Hazard Assessment into Comprehensive Planning *An Analysis of the Current State of Iowa Comprehensive Plans***

#### **Introduction**

The Iowa Smart Planning Legislation signed into law by Governor Culver on April 26, 2010 charges the Task Force with analyzing Iowa comprehensive plans to determine if hazards are considered. Specifically, the Task Force must:

*Review municipal comprehensive plans to determine the number of such plans that address the hazards identified in section 18B.2 subsection 2, paragraph “k” (“Hazards Elements”, and the adequacy of such plans in addressing those hazards.*

#### Hazards Elements

Objectives, policies, and programs that identify the natural and other hazards that have the greatest likelihood of impacting the municipality or that pose a risk of catastrophic damage as such hazards relate to land use and development decisions, as well as the steps necessary to mitigate risk after considering the local hazard mitigation plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

This report details the process and results of the evaluation of a sample of municipal plans across the State of Iowa. These results will be used to recommend further action with regard to hazard assessment elements in comprehensive plans.

## Process

To conduct an evaluation of the adequacy of plans to address the “Hazards Elements” section of the legislative guide, a sampling of nine cities and 3 counties was taken. The cities and counties fit into the categories described below and were randomly sampled based on the availability of the entity’s comprehensive plan.

**Table 1. City sampling by population tier.**

<b>Population Tier</b>	<b>City 1</b>	<b>City 2</b>	<b>City 3</b>
Less than 5000	Adel	Hudson	Lamoni
5000 to 25,000	Waverly	Johnston	Indianola
Greater than 25,000	Marion	Iowa City	Des Moines

**Table 2. County sampling by population tier.**

<b>Population Tier</b>	<b>County</b>
Less than 10,000	Fremont
10,000 to 50,000	Cedar
Greater than 50,000	Dubuque

## Evaluation

The following worksheet was used to evaluate the selected plans:



## Hazards Element Evaluation

Entity:	
Plan Title:	
Population:	
Last Updated:	
Link:	

	Yes	No	N/A	Information
Does the entity have an approved FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan?				
Is the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan referenced in the comprehensive plan?				
Are hazard mitigation elements incorporated into the comprehensive plan (e.g. Hazard chapter or section)?				
Does the comprehensive plan have a section on flood plains?				
Are there any other references to considering hazards during the planning process in the comprehensive plan?				

### Results

- Six of the nine cities sampled has an approved FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan or is part of the county's plan. Only one of the counties sampled has an approved plan while a second county is in the process of updating their expired plan.
- None of the sampled comprehensive plans contained a Hazard Mitigation or Hazards Assessment section, although many of the plans referenced considering certain hazards in the planning process. These references were mostly concerning flood plains and flood damage mitigation.
- Half of the plans sampled contained a section specifically on flood plain management with regard to land use. These sections came in the form of both text and maps.

## Recommendations

The results show that none of the sampled plans addressed hazards as stated in the Hazards Element of the suggested local comprehensive plan guidelines. This suggests that the inclusion of a hazards section within local comprehensive plans is not a common practice. With this in mind, it is recommended that a Hazards section become standard in approval of comprehensive plans. To aid communities in meeting this goal, the state should develop guidance as to what these sections need to include; whether it simply be reference to an approved FEMA plan or a full hazards assessment.

## Appendix F: Iowa Smart Planning Legislation (SF 2389, Division VII)

The text below is the code language referring to Iowa Smart Planning as adopted under SF 2389. The full text of the bill can be found here: <http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=Billbook&menu=false&hbill=SF2389>

## Senate File 2389 – Enrolled (SMART PLANNING SECTIONS)

Senate File 2389

AN  
ACT

RELATING TO AND MAKING, REDUCING, AND TRANSFERRING  
APPROPRIATIONS TO STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES FROM  
THE REBUILD IOWA INFRASTRUCTURE FUND, THE TECHNOLOGY  
REINVESTMENT FUND, THE REVENUE BONDS CAPITALS FUND,  
THE  
REVENUE BONDS CAPITALS II FUND, THE FY 2009 PRISON BONDING  
FUND, AND OTHER FUNDS, CREATING THE IOWA JOBS II  
PROGRAM, AND THE REVENUE BONDS FEDERAL SUBSIDY HOLDBACK  
FUND, PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS, AND PROVIDING AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

.....

## DIVISION VII SMART PLANNING

Sec. 17. NEW SECTION. 18B.1 Iowa smart planning principles.

State agencies, local governments, and other public entities shall consider and may apply the following principles during deliberation of all appropriate planning, zoning, development, and resource management decisions, except that nothing in this section shall be construed to expand the eminent domain authority of a state agency, local government, or other public entity beyond that which is authorized under chapter 6A or 6B:

1. Collaboration. Governmental, community, and individual stakeholders, including those outside the jurisdiction of the entity, are encouraged to be involved and provide comment during deliberation of planning, zoning, development, and resource management decisions and during implementation of such decisions. The state agency, local government, or other public entity is encouraged to develop and implement a strategy to facilitate such participation.

2. Efficiency, transparency, and consistency. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should be undertaken to provide efficient, transparent, and consistent outcomes.

Individuals, communities, regions, and governmental entities should share in the responsibility to promote the equitable distribution of development benefits and costs.

3. Clean, renewable, and efficient energy. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should be undertaken to promote clean and renewable energy use and increased energy efficiency.

4. Occupational diversity. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should promote increased diversity of employment and business opportunities, promote access to education and training, expand entrepreneurial opportunities, and promote the establishment of businesses in locations near existing housing, infrastructure, and transportation.

5. Revitalization. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should facilitate the revitalization of established town centers and neighborhoods by promoting development that conserves land, protects historic resources, promotes pedestrian accessibility, and integrates different uses of property. Remediation and reuse of existing sites, structures, and infrastructure is preferred over new construction in undeveloped areas.

6. Housing diversity. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should encourage diversity in the types of available housing, support the rehabilitation of existing housing, and promote the location of housing near public transportation and employment centers.

7. Community character. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should promote activities and development that are consistent with the character and architectural style of the community and should respond to local values regarding the physical character of the community.

8. Natural resources and agricultural protection. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should

emphasize protection, preservation, and restoration of natural resources, agricultural land, and cultural and historic landscapes, and should increase the availability of open spaces and recreational facilities.

9. Sustainable design. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should promote developments, buildings, and infrastructure that utilize sustainable design and construction standards and conserve natural resources by reducing waste and pollution through efficient use of land, energy, water, air, and materials.

10. Transportation diversity. Planning, zoning, development, and resource management should promote expanded transportation options for residents of the community. Consideration should be given to transportation options that maximize mobility, reduce congestion, conserve fuel, and improve air quality.

Sec. 18. NEW SECTION. 18B.2 Local comprehensive planning and development guidelines.

1. For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

a. (1) "Development" means any of the following:

(a) Construction, reconstruction, renovation, mining, extraction, dredging, filling, excavation, or drilling activity or operation.

(b) Man-made changes in the use or appearance of any structure or in the land itself.

(c) The division or subdivision of land.

(d) Any change in the intensity of use or the use of land.

(2) "Development" does not include any of the following:

(a) Activities on or uses of agricultural land, farm houses, or agricultural buildings or structures, unless such buildings or structures are located in the flood plain of a river or stream.

(b) Installation, operation, and maintenance of soil and water conservation practices.

(c) The choice of crops or a change in the choice of crops on agricultural land.

b. "Land development regulations" means zoning, subdivision, site plan, corridor map, floodplain or storm water ordinances, rules, or regulations, or other governmental controls that affect the use of property.

c. "Municipality" means a city or a county.

2. A municipality shall consider the smart planning principles under section 18B.1 and may include the following information, if applicable, when developing or amending a comprehensive plan under chapter 335 or chapter 414 or when developing or amending other local land development regulations:

a. Information relating to public participation during the creation of the comprehensive plan or land development regulations, including documentation of the public participation process, a compilation of objectives, policies, and goals identified in the public comment received, and identification of the groups or individuals comprising any work groups or committees that were created to assist the planning and zoning commission or other appropriate decision-making body of the municipality.

b. Information relating to the primary characteristics of the

municipality and a description of how each of those characteristics impacts future development of the municipality. Such information may include historical information about the municipality, the municipality's geography, natural resources, natural hazards, population, demographics, types of employers and industry, labor force, political and community institutions, housing, transportation, educational resources, and cultural and recreational resources. The comprehensive plan or land development regulations may also identify characteristics and community aesthetics that are important to future development of the municipality.

c. Objectives, information, and programs that identify current land uses within the municipality and that guide the future development and redevelopment of property, consistent with the municipality's characteristics identified under paragraph "b". The comprehensive plan or land development regulations may include information on the amount, type, intensity, and density of existing land use, trends in the market price of land used for specific purposes, and plans for future land use throughout the municipality. The comprehensive plan or land development regulations may identify and include information on property that has the possibility for redevelopment, a map of existing and potential land use and land use conflicts, information and maps relating to the current and future provision of utilities within the municipality, information and maps that identify the current and future boundaries for areas reserved for soil conservation, water supply conservation, flood control, and surface water drainage and removal. Information provided under this paragraph may also include an analysis of the current and potential impacts on local watersheds and air quality.

d. Objectives, policies, and programs to further the vitality and character of established residential neighborhoods and new residential neighborhoods and plans to ensure an adequate housing supply that meets both the existing and forecasted housing demand.

The comprehensive plan or land development regulations may include an inventory and analysis of the local housing stock and may include specific information such as age, condition, type, market value, occupancy, and historical characteristics of all the housing within the municipality. The comprehensive plan or land development regulations may identify specific policies and programs that promote the development of new housing and maintenance or rehabilitation of existing housing and that provide a range of housing choices that meet the needs of the residents of the municipality.

e. Objectives, policies, and programs to guide future development of sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, wastewater treatment technologies, recycling facilities, and telecommunications facilities. The comprehensive plan or land development regulations may include estimates regarding future demand for such utility services.

f. Objectives, policies, and programs to guide the future development of a safe, convenient, efficient, and economical transportation system. Plans for such a transportation system may be coordinated with state and regional transportation



plans and take into consideration the need for diverse modes of transportation, accessibility, improved air quality, and interconnectivity of the various modes of transportation.

g. Objectives, policies, and programs to promote the stabilization, retention, or expansion of economic development and employment opportunities. The comprehensive plan or land development regulations may include an analysis of current industries and economic activity and identify economic growth goals for the municipality. The comprehensive plan or land development regulations may also identify locations for future brownfield or grayfield development.

h. Objectives, policies, and programs addressing preservation and protection of agricultural and natural resources.

i. Objectives, policies, and programs to assist future development of educational facilities, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities, law enforcement and fire protection facilities, libraries, and other governmental facilities that are necessary or desirable to meet the projected needs of the municipality.

j. Objectives, policies, and programs to identify characteristics and qualities that make the municipality unique and that are important to the municipality's heritage and quality of life.

k. Objectives, policies, and programs that identify the natural and other hazards that have the greatest likelihood of impacting the municipality or that pose a risk of catastrophic damage as such hazards relate to land use and development decisions, as well as the steps necessary to mitigate risk after considering the local hazard mitigation plan approved by the federal emergency management agency.

l. Objectives, policies, and programs for joint planning and joint decision making with other municipalities or governmental entities, including school districts and drainage districts, for siting and constructing public facilities and sharing public services. The comprehensive plan or land development regulations may identify existing or potential conflicts between the municipality and other local governments related to future development of the municipality and may include recommendations for resolving such conflicts. The comprehensive plan or land development regulations may also identify opportunities to collaborate and partner with neighboring jurisdictions and other entities in the region for projects of mutual interest.

m. A compilation of programs and specific actions necessary to implement any provision of the comprehensive plan, including changes to any applicable land development regulations, official maps, or subdivision ordinances.

3. A municipality's comprehensive plan developed using the guidelines under this section shall address prevention and mitigation of, response to, and recovery from a catastrophic flood.

Sec. 19. Section 28I.4, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

28I.4 Powers and duties.

1. The commission shall have the power and duty to make comprehensive studies and plans for the development of

the area it serves which will guide the unified development of the area and which will eliminate planning duplication and promote economy and efficiency in the ~~co-ordinated~~ coordinated development of the area and the general welfare, convenience, safety, and prosperity of its people. The plan or plans collectively shall be known as the regional or metropolitan development plan. The plans for the development of the area may include, but shall not be limited to, recommendations with respect to existing and proposed highways, bridges, airports, streets, parks and recreational areas, schools and public institutions and public utilities, public open spaces, and sites for public buildings and structures; districts for residence, business, industry, recreation, agriculture, and forestry; water supply, sanitation, drainage, protection against floods and other disasters; areas for housing developments, slum clearance and urban renewal and redevelopment; location of private and public utilities, including but not limited to sewerage and water supply systems; and such other recommendations concerning current and impending problems as may affect the area served by the commission. Time and priority schedules and cost estimates for the accomplishment of the recommendations may also be included in the plans. The plans shall be made with consideration of the smart planning principles under section 18B.1. The plans shall be based upon and include appropriate studies of the location and extent of present and anticipated populations; social, physical, and economic resources, problems and trends; and governmental conditions and trends. The commission is also authorized to make surveys, land-use studies, and urban renewal plans, provide technical services and other planning work for the area it serves and for cities, counties, and other political subdivisions in the area. A plan or plans of the commission may be adopted, added to, and changed from time to time by a majority vote of the planning commission. The plan or plans may in whole or in part be adopted by the governing bodies of the ~~co-operating~~ cooperating cities and counties as the general plans of such cities and counties. The commission may also assist the governing bodies and other public authorities or agencies within the area it serves in carrying out any regional plan or plans, and assist any planning commission, board or agency of the cities and counties and political subdivisions in the preparation or effectuation of local plans and planning consistent with the program of the commission. The commission may ~~co-operate~~ cooperate and confer, as far as possible, with planning agencies of other states or of regional groups of states adjoining its area.

2. A planning commission formed under the provisions of this chapter shall, upon designation as such by the governor, serve as a district, regional, or metropolitan agency for comprehensive planning for its area for the purpose of carrying out the functions as defined for such an agency by federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Sec. 20. Section 329.3, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

329.3 Zoning regulations == powers granted.

Every municipality having an airport hazard area within

its territorial limits may adopt, administer, and enforce in the manner and upon the conditions prescribed by this chapter, zoning regulations for such airport hazard area, which regulations may divide such area into zones and, within such zones, specify the land uses permitted, and regulate and restrict, for the purpose of preventing airport hazards, the height to which structures and trees may be erected or permitted to grow. Regulations adopted under this chapter shall be made with consideration of the smart planning principles under section 18B.1.

Sec. 21. Section 335.5, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

335.5 Objectives.

1. The regulations shall be made in accordance with a comprehensive plan and designed to preserve the availability of agricultural land; to consider the protection of soil from wind and water erosion; to encourage efficient urban development patterns; to lessen congestion in the street or highway; to secure safety from fire, flood, panic, and other dangers; to protect health and the general welfare; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; to promote the conservation of energy resources; to promote reasonable access to solar energy; and to facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, and other public requirements. However, provisions of this section relating to the objectives of energy conservation and access to solar energy shall not be construed as voiding any zoning regulation existing on July 1, 1981, or to require zoning in a county that did not have zoning prior to July 1, 1981.

2. ~~Such~~ The regulations shall be made with reasonable consideration, among other things, as to the character of the area of the district and the peculiar suitability of such area for particular uses, and with a view to conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout such county.

3. The regulations and comprehensive plan shall be made with consideration of the smart planning principles under section 18B.1 and may include the information specified in section 18B.2, subsection 2.

4. a. A comprehensive plan recommended for adoption by the zoning commission established under section 335.8, may be adopted by the board of supervisors. The board of supervisors may amend a proposed comprehensive plan prior to adoption. The board of supervisors shall publish notice of the meeting at which the comprehensive plan will be considered for adoption. The notice shall be published as provided in section 331.305.

b. Following its adoption, copies of the comprehensive plan shall be sent or made available to neighboring counties, cities within the county, the council of governments or regional planning commission where the county is located, and public libraries within the county.

c. Following its adoption, a comprehensive plan may be amended by the board of supervisors at any time.

Sec. 22. Section 335.8, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

335.8 Commission appointed.

1. In order to avail itself of the powers conferred by this chapter, the board of supervisors shall appoint a commission, a majority of whose members shall reside within the county but outside the corporate limits of any city, to be known as the county zoning commission, to recommend the boundaries of the various original districts, and appropriate regulations and restrictions to be enforced therein. Such commission shall, with due diligence, prepare a preliminary report and hold public hearings thereon before submitting its final report; and the board of supervisors shall not hold its public hearings or take action until it has received the final report of such commission. After the adoption of such regulations, restrictions, and boundaries of districts, the zoning commission may, from time to time, recommend to the board of supervisors amendments, supplements, changes or modifications.

2. The zoning commission may recommend to the board of supervisors for adoption a comprehensive plan pursuant to section 335.5, or amendments thereto.

3. The zoning commission, with the approval of the board of supervisors, may contract with professional consultants, regional planning commissions, the Iowa department of economic development, or the federal government, for local planning assistance.

Sec. 23. Section 414.3, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

414.3 Basis of regulations.

1. The regulations shall be made in accordance with a comprehensive plan and designed to preserve the availability of agricultural land; to consider the protection of soil from wind and water erosion; to encourage efficient urban development patterns; to lessen congestion in the street; to secure safety from fire, flood, panic, and other dangers; to promote health and the general welfare; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; to promote the conservation of energy resources; to promote reasonable access to solar energy; and to facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, and other public requirements. However, provisions of this section relating to the objectives of energy conservation and access to solar energy do not void any zoning regulation existing on July 1, 1981, or require zoning in a city that did not have zoning prior to July 1, 1981.

2. ~~Such~~ The regulations shall be made with reasonable consideration, among other things, as to the character of the area of the district and the peculiar suitability of such area for particular uses, and with a view to conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout such city.

3. The regulations and comprehensive plan shall be made with consideration of the smart planning principles under section 18B.1 and may include the information specified in section 18B.2, subsection 2.

4. a. A comprehensive plan recommended for adoption by the zoning commission established under section 414.6, may be adopted by the council. The council may amend the proposed comprehensive plan prior to adoption. The council shall publish notice of the meeting at which the comprehensive plan

will be considered for adoption. The notice shall be published as provided in section 362.3.

b. Following its adoption, copies of the comprehensive plan shall be sent or made available to the county in which the city is located, neighboring counties and cities, the council of governments or regional planning commission where the city is located, and public libraries within the city.

c. Following its adoption, a comprehensive plan may be amended by the council at any time.

Sec. 24. Section 414.6, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

414.6 Zoning commission.

1. In order to avail itself of the powers conferred by this chapter, the council shall appoint a commission, to be known as the zoning commission, to recommend the boundaries of the various original districts, and appropriate regulations and restrictions to be enforced therein. Where a city plan commission already exists, it may be appointed as the zoning commission. Such commission shall, with due diligence, prepare a preliminary report and hold public hearings thereon before submitting its final report; and such council shall not hold its public hearings or take action until it has received the final report of such commission. After the adoption of such regulations, restrictions, and boundaries of districts, the zoning commission may, from time to time, recommend to the council amendments, supplements, changes, or modifications.

2. The zoning commission may recommend to the council for adoption a comprehensive plan pursuant to section 414.3, or amendments thereto.

Sec. 25. IOWA SMART PLANNING TASK FORCE.

1. An Iowa smart planning task force is established consisting of twenty-nine voting members and four ex officio, nonvoting members.

2. Members of the task force shall consist of all of the following:

a. Fourteen state agency director or administrator members consisting of all of the following:

(1) The director of the department on aging or the director's designee.

(2) The director of the department of economic development or the director's designee.

(3) The secretary of agriculture and land stewardship or the secretary's designee.

(4) The director of the department of cultural affairs or the director's designee.

(5) The director of the department of public health or the director's designee.

(6) The director of the department of management or the director's designee.

(7) The director of the department of natural resources or the director's designee.

(8) The director of the department of workforce development or the director's designee.

(9) The director of the office of energy independence or the director's designee.

(10) The director of the department of transportation or the director's designee.

(11) The administrator of the homeland security and emergency management division of the department of public defense or the administrator's designee.

(12) The director of the rebuild Iowa office or the director's designee.

(13) The state building code commissioner or the commissioner's designee.

(14) The chairperson of the utilities board within the utilities division of the department of commerce or the chairperson's designee.

b. Chairperson of the department of community and regional planning at Iowa state university or the chairperson's designee.

c. Director of the urban and regional planning program at the university of Iowa or the director's designee.

d. Director of the institute for decision making at the university of northern Iowa or the director's designee.

e. President of the Iowa chapter of the American planning association or the president's designee.

f. Executive director of the Iowa association of regional councils or the executive director's designee.

g. President of the Iowa chapter of the American institute of architects or the president's designee.

h. Executive director of the Iowa league of cities or the executive director's designee.

i. Executive director of the Iowa state association of counties or the executive director's designee.

j. President of the executive committee of the school administrators of Iowa or the president's designee.

k. A representative appointed by the governor from a city having a population of five thousand or less according to the 2000 certified federal census.

l. A representative appointed by the governor from a city having a population of more than five thousand and less than twenty-five thousand according to the 2000 certified federal census.

m. A representative appointed by the governor from a city having a population of twenty-five thousand or more according to the 2000 certified federal census.

n. A representative appointed by the governor from a county having a population of ten thousand or less according to the 2000 certified federal census.

o. A representative appointed by the governor from a county having a population of more than ten thousand and less than fifty thousand according to the 2000 certified federal census. p.

A representative appointed by the governor from a county having a population of fifty thousand or more according to the 2000 certified federal census.

3. The task force shall include four members of the general assembly serving as ex officio, nonvoting members, with not more than one member from each chamber being from the same political party. The two senators shall be appointed one each by the majority leader of the senate after consultation with the president of the senate, and by the minority leader of the senate. The two representatives shall be appointed one each by the speaker of the house of representatives after consultation with the majority leader of the house of representatives, and by

the minority leader of the house of representatives.

4. The task force may establish committees and subcommittees comprised of members of the task force.

5. Members of the task force designated in subsection 2, paragraphs "k" through "p" shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. For the members of the task force designated in subsection 2, paragraphs "k" through "p", at least one member shall have experience in real estate, at least one member shall have experience in land development, and at least one member shall have experience in residential construction.

6. A vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

7. a. A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum. Any action taken by the task force must be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of its membership. A task force member's designee may vote on task force matters in the absence of the member.

b. The task force shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from the membership of the task force.

c. The task force shall meet at least four times before November 15, 2010. Meetings of the task force may be called by the chairperson or by a majority of the members. However, the first meeting of the task force shall be called by the governor.

d. Members of the task force shall not be compensated for meeting participation or reimbursed for costs associated with meeting attendance. A legislative member is not eligible for per diem and expenses as provided in section 2.10.

8. The director of the department of management, or the director's designee, shall provide staff assistance and administrative support to the task force. The task force may request information or other assistance from the Iowa association of regional councils.

9. The director of the department of management, or the director's designee, shall seek funding to support municipal comprehensive planning in this state.

10. The task force shall comply with the requirements of chapters 21 and 22. The department of management shall be the official repository of task force records.

11. The duties of the task force shall include but are not limited to the following:

a. Consult land use experts, representatives of cities and counties, agricultural and environmental interests, urban and regional planning experts, reports or information from the local government innovation commission, and all other information deemed relevant by task force members.

b. Solicit information from the general public on matters related to comprehensive planning.

c. Evaluate state policies, programs, statutes, and rules to determine whether any state policies, programs, statutes, or rules should be revised to integrate the Iowa smart planning principles under section 18B.1.

d. Develop statewide goals for comprehensive planning that utilize the Iowa smart planning principles under section 18B.1, and develop recommendations for a process to measure progress toward achieving those goals.

e. Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and

regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.

f. Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning within the state and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.

g. Review municipal comprehensive plans to determine the number of such plans that address the hazards identified in section 18B.2, subsection 2, paragraph "k", and the adequacy of such plans in addressing those hazards.

h. Develop a set of recommendations that is consistent with the Iowa smart planning principles under section 18B.1 and that does all of the following:

(1) Coordinates, facilitates, and centralizes the exchange of information related to state and local planning, zoning, and development between state agencies and the general assembly.

(2) Coordinates discussions concerning a proposed geographic information system between the producers and the users of such systems.

(3) Allows the efficient production and dissemination of population and other demographic statistical forecasts.

(4) Creates a centralized electronic storage location for all comprehensive plans adopted under chapter 335 or chapter 414.

(5) Facilitates the cooperation of state and local governments with comprehensive planning, educational, and research programs.

(6) Provides and administers technical and financial assistance for state and local comprehensive planning.

(7) Provides information to local governments relating to state and federal resources and other resources for comprehensive planning.

12. The task force shall prepare a report that includes goals, recommendations, and other information described in subsection 11, to the governor and the general assembly on or before November 15, 2010.

13. The task force is dissolved on December 31, 2012.

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